Thursday, June 23, 2011 | 4 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 191 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE GRAND GREEN MESS President Aquino standing on the Dalis Bridge points to a section of the Rio Grande de Mindanao river carpeted with water hyacinths during his inspection of the flooded areas in Maguindanao on Wednesday. 32 hectares clogged by water lilies had to be cleared often by hand. Ten and a half hectares remain to be cleared. Trailing the President is the Presidential Security Group commander, Col. Ramon Chito Matias Dison.

Aquino to China: Adhere to UN pact

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said China should adhere to the UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea (Unclos) that provides for Philippine sovereignty over the Reed Bank (named well within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone).

In an interview with reporters in a military camp in Dulmatin City, Mr. Aquino also said China should explain to the international community the validity of its claim over the islet just west of Palawan, which Beijing calls Panyi Bank.

The President called on the United Nations, United States and all other countries that use the West Philippine Sea to insist that concerned states adhere to international laws that in this case, he says, means the Unclos.

"When there anything else the issues here in all conscience,

AQUINO / A8

Pag-asa mommy's long-delayed repair to start 'anytime' / A3

'Final execution' of coco farmers

SC ruling on Danding SMC shares hit

LIKE OLD TIMES Business magnate Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco shakes hands with former first lady Imelda Marcos during the 46th wedding anniversary of Marcos and Norma Santiago on Sunday. JOY NACIONAL

By Dodo T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Terra Quimpando
in Manila

A PEASANT leader yesterday said the affirmation with finality by the Supreme Court on Tuesday of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's hold on 20 percent of the shares of stock in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) meant the "final execution" of the coconut farmers.

Jaime Carmona, secretary general of the peasant coalition Kamarangan Quezon, said in a phone interview that "the Supreme Court decision only shows the great injustice being continuously inflicted on the helpless coconut farmers by powerful forces in our society."

"This decision also served as the final extension of the coconut farmers. They are now doomed to further starvation and slow death," he said.

"The message is simple: In this country, unless what is not

FINAL / A12

P-Noy leads 'war vs water hyacinths'

AFTER SURVEYING the devastation from the air, President Aquino yesterday checked on disaster relief efforts in Cotabato City and vowed more aid for ravaged communities in their "war against water hyacinths," a green menace being blamed for one of the worst floods in Mindanao in recent years.

Mr. Aquino conducted an aerial inspection of the clogged Rio Grande de Mindanao as public works and military personnel worked round the clock to clear the mighty river of up to 26 hectares of water lily growth. (See related story on Page A18.)

Malacañang says the lilies' unhampered spread had caused

POINT ASSERTS A10

71% trust Aquino, says Pulse Asia

By Inquirer Research

ABOUT SEVEN in 10 (71 percent) Filipinos trust President Aquino and approve of his performance as head of state, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

They also believe that the Aquino administration has been successful in fighting criminality, with 60 percent of the respondents expressing approval, but are largely unsatisfied with its efforts in control inflation, with only 39 percent expressing approval.

TALK TRUST / A10

US uses shock, awe to smoke out smokers

NEW YORK—Reacting to shock and awe in its unrelenting campaign, US health officials on Tuesday released their final selection of nine graphic warning labels to cover the top half of cigarette packs beginning next year, over the opposition of tobacco manufacturers.

The 85 warnings—the biggest change to the labels in 25 years—are images such as a diseased lung, a smoker wearing an

US WARNS A13

'Gold mine' in Marcos safe

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief of Bureau

(First of a series)

SEN. JOKER Arroyo remembers the night 'EE helicopters and 80 of the dictator ferdinand Marcos, his family and close associates to exile to Hawaii as heralding mobs stormed Malacañang on July 25, 1986.

Arroyo then was one of the closest aides of Corazon Aquino, who was installed as President earlier in the morning

as the close of a four-day People Power Revolution that ended the 20-year Marcos rule. Arroyo had been directed to secure the Palace.

With him were Teddy Boy Locsin, a lawyer who would later join the Aquino administration, anti-Marcos activist Francisco "Chino" Rocos, and TV talk show host Mauro Hontiveros, who just happened to ring along.

"Teddy Boy was so engrossed

ORIGINS / A4

Kin grieve on witness stand

By Philip C. Tubeza

GLORIA ROMERO Soudera, 42, said she saw the corpse of her husband, Andres "Andy" Soudera, publisher/editor of the Central Mindanao Inquirer, propped with 14 gunshot wounds, the skull bashed in and the neck slashed.

Soudera recalled the massacre at the resumption of the 2009 Maguindanao massacre trial. "It was like I had lost my sanity," she testified.

The widow told the presiding judge, Jocelyn Solis-Reyes, that she and her family suffered tremendously after the death of her husband, one of the 32 media workers killed in the massacre attributed to the powerful Ampatuan clan.

MAY 23 / A6

Media groups thank SC for live coverage / A6

NEWS
'Falcon' now a tropical storm / A6

WORLD
Ban Ki-moon reelected UN chief by acclamation / A26

WORLD
US to start pulling out troops from Afghanistan/ A26

WORLD
The world's oldest person dies in Brazil / A25

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rain	Isolated thunder
Baguio	Cloudy with rain	Storm
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Laoag	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Kalibo	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Tacloban	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Cebu	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Iloilo	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rain	Calm
Davao	Cloudy with rain	Calm

2 P.M.

2	24
24	31
25	1

QUARTERS

2	8
8	2
3	2

HOUR DRAW

8 6 3 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45

10 13 19 23 35 37

P18,276,725.60

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

12 25 26 29 36 52

P48,314,970.00

'Time for P-Noy to step in'

Aquino urged to compel military to free missing activists

By TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Aquino should now step in and order the Armed Forces of the Philippines to release University of the Philippines student Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño and Bulacan farmer Manuel Merino, Edita Burgos said yesterday.

As commander in chief, Mr. Aquino has the power to compel the AFP to comply with the Supreme Court's order to immediately release the three missing activists, said Burgos, whose son, desaparecido activist Jonas Burgos, is also missing.

Burgos said the President should "take up the cudgels" for the disappeared whose families the court had no other recourse if the military defied the SC order.

"It's the correct, right thing to do for us to know the truth. I have faith in the President. He has a Christian house. He will do what is right," she said in an interview by phone.

The Supreme Court recently found retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. and five other military personnel liable for the abduction and detention of Cadapan, Empeño and Merino and ordered the AFP to immediately release the missing activists.

But the military insisted it was not keeping them in its custody.

"Who will we release when the three are not in our custody?" Army spokesperson Col. Antonio Parlade Jr. said Tuesday.

The two UP students, along with Merino, were reportedly forcibly taken by armed men believed to be members of the military from the farmer's house in Hagonoy, Bulacan, on June 26, 2006.

Sanctioned

Yesterday, the Department of Justice sanctioned Palparan and six other military officials to appear in the preliminary investigation on the criminal case filed on May 4 against them by Concepcion Empeño and Linda Cadapan, the mothers of the missing UP students.

Apart from Palparan, also ordered by the DOJ to attend the scheduled hearing on July 8 were Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado, Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, Lt. Ferdie Mirabelle Samson, Alfred Ilogdesquez and SI/Sgt. Fred Villarin.

The members of the two CPP insurgency groups accused other military officials of rape, serious physical injuries, arbitrary detention, and treatment of prisoners, grave threats and grave coercion.

Their complaints were based on the testimony of former Raymund Manalo who claimed that he saw Empeño, Cadapan and Merino in September 2006 while they were all detained in safe Camp Tinsan in Bulacan.

Credible witness

The Court of Appeals found Manalo's statement credible and granted the writ of amparo filed by the missing activists' families in 2008.

Palparan and the AFP have repeatedly denied accusations that Empeño and Cadapan were in their custody and that they had a hand in their sudden disappearance.

Burgos, widow of the late press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr., lauded the SC for its order on the three missing activists, but conceded they could not rejoice completely.

"I'm very happy. I thank God for the ruling. But there's also a reality check because we know the Armed Forces will not follow the order of the Supreme Court," she said. "What will the Supreme Court do now? Will they slap contempt charges against the military?"

The Burgos family is awaiting the high court ruling on its petition for the issuance of a writ of amparo. It has recently filed criminal charges against military officials involved in the April 28, 2007 abduction of Jonas from the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City.

'Kirao' for soldiers

Army Maj. Harry Baliaga was implicated in the abduction.

The AFP said Baliaga would appear before any criminal investigation sanctioned by a military lawyer.

Meanwhile, the AFP has acquitted soldiers to watch films depicting human rights violations.

The AFP said it banned the special screening of "Kirot" on Wednesday night at the AFP Theater inside Camp Aguinaldo to underscore its human rights advocacy under the new internal peace and security plan Bayanihan under the Aquino administration.

The 15 short films depict rights abuses in real life involving among others, indigenous people, children, gays, women, workers and the media.

The film series is a joint project of the ABS-CBN News Channel, the Commission on Human Rights and the Embassy of Netherlands.

"We believe that 'Kirot' is a very effective way to bring human rights issues to the people as well as to our troops as we continuously seek the protection of our advocacy contained within our BNPP Bayanihan," Col. Domingo B. Ianan Jr., head of the newly established AFP Human Rights Office, said. With Nona Z. Pinlac

LTO chief a burden to P-Noy, says Drilon

By TJ Burgonio

EVEN though President Aquino has found by her, the controversial Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief, Virginia Torres, is facing fresh calls to resign from Mr. Aquino's own Senate allies.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said Wednesday that Torres has become a "burden" to the President because of her alleged involvement in the violent takeover of Steadcom Corp., the LTO's IT provider, last December.

"We are here to help the President. Maybe we should just resign if the people think that we have become a burden. Now that we have committed a mistake," Drilon, Mr. Aquino's Liberal Party ally, said in a statement.

Though Torres has not been found guilty of the graft charges filed against her over the takeover, the administration has adversely affected the LTO and the President, Drilon said.

"I'm not saying she's guilty, but in this governance, perception is very critical," he said.

"The people think that it is already affecting the leadership of President Aquino," the senator said.

Torres returned to her post last Tuesday after a two-month leave during which Mr. Aquino came under increasing criticism for refusing to fire her.

In her first day of work, Torres refuted calls for her to resign. She said quitting would be a sign on the face of government.

While it's the President's call to decide for Cole, Torres should stop issuing "self-serving statements" since these do not help her or the President, said Sen. Francis Escudero, another of Mr. Aquino's party allies.

"She should step up and just focus on doing her job. Less talk, less interviews," he said.

"Next for any appointee official who may feel that he or she may already be a liability to the President, resignation is always an option," Pangilinan added.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada advised Torres to "reclaim" her position.

"She should not give additional burden to the President. The President has a lot of burdens already. Solving the problems of the country," Estrada said.

Torres, said to be a shouting buddy of Mr. Aquino, went on a two-month leave at the President's request.

A fact-finding committee formed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had recommended Torres' suspension to give way to an inquiry into her alleged involvement in a corruption dispute at Steadcom, the LTO's information technology provider.

Last December, a rival group of Steadcom stockholders, claiming to be the new company management, forcibly took control of the company's offices inside the LTO's Quezon City compound, which led to the suspension of LTO services for several hours.

Resigned Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus repeatedly asked the President to "discipline" Torres for allegedly diverting time for the Steadcom takeover to "political" activities.

Senate bill to criminalize necrophilia

By Christian V. Esguerra

ANYONE who sexually abuses a living person has at least a chance of being punished as the law provides for it. However, if that someone were to do it to the dead, he will probably get away with it.

Two senators have filed separate bills criminalizing necrophilia so as to plug this apparent loophole in the country's criminal justice system.

The crime is characterized by a "morbid desire to have sexual contact with a dead body, usually of men so as to perform a sexual act with a dead woman," according to Merby's libelled Dictionary.

Sen. Manuel Villar said the act "forcible imposition of manhood ... directed against a lifeless female does not make the grisly act one less detestable and heinous."

"In fact, this vicious brutality is intolerably offensive and revolting to the feelings of the living even as it grossly desecrates the dead," he said in explanatory note to his Senate Bill 2297.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who filed SB 586, noted that under the present Revised Penal Code, "only defamation to blacken the memory of one who is dead is criminalized."

The two bills seek to amend the Revised Penal Code to introduce a provision against necrophilia.

The Villar bill imposes a jail term of 40 years or more on top of a fine of between P500,000 and P500,000. Estrada's bill seeks the same fine but involves a lighter jail term of between prision mayor and 20 years.

Under Estrada's SB 586, sexual acts with a corpse cover "sexual intercourse, anal and/or oral sex."

The Senate committee on justice and human rights conducted a preliminary hearing on the bills last month. Sen. Francis Escudero, the committee chair, acknowledged the absence of penalties against necrophilia under existing laws.

He said this was also probably the reason why no such cases have been formally filed and brought to the Philippine National Police or the National Bureau of Investigation.

5 Abu suspects caught napping

DINAIGAMALCZT)—Government troops captured five suspected Abu Sayyaf gang members believed to be holding three hostages in a raid on one of their jungle hideouts in Basilan, the Army said yesterday.

Troops raided an encampment in Upper Cabengbeng barangay in Sumisip town at dawn yesterday and caught the bandits in their sleep, said Col. Alexander Macario, commander of the special military task force. About 10 of them managed to escape, however.

The raid followed a tip from a suspect arrested last week, who said three Filipino hostages were being held by the bandits.

Macario, none of the three hostages were found during the operation.

The three hostages being held for ransom include a child and two businessmen separately kidnapped in recent months. A fourth captive, engineer Virgilio Fernandez, managed to escape from his captors last week, and authorities have handed him over to his family.

The five captured Abu Sayyaf suspects were part of a unit that specialized in kidnappings to raise funds for the group and security forces found specialized weapons, including a suspected rifle-flashing flare, the said, Macario said.

They are facing criminal charges, said Maj. Harold Cabunoc, the Army's deputy spokesperson. Their identities were not immediately disclosed.

However, local officials later claimed that three of the five captured men were just being used as "pawns" by the Abu Sayyaf and have since been turned over to the barangay officials, Cabunoc said.

"The AFP is not after the Moro people, we are only after the armed members of the ASG and as proof of our sincerity, we released the three to the village officials in good faith and this is strong expression of our position and to speed forward business rights," Cabunoc said.

Yesterday's raid was the second conducted in Basilan since last week, he said.

On Saturday, a similar raid in Tuglupa Pilkati town failed to result three of Basilan's notorious Abu Sayyaf leaders, including Nur Hassan Jaurari and Rhait Wasidan. But one gang member was captured and a firearm cache seized. AFP and AP with Aida F. Ma-ao, Inquirer Mindanao

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- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
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Correction

IN THE JUNE 20 ISSUE, a front-page caption erroneously described the Jose Rizal monument in Calamba City, Laguna, as the "largest monument" of the national hero. According to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the Calamba monument has the latter status of the national hero at 46.7 meters, which eclipsed the statehood rather than statue in Bagumbayan, Nueva Vizcaya, which measures 37 meters. The tallest Jose Rizal monument, measuring 14 meters from base to the tip of the obelisk or spire, is the one at Luneta, according to the NHCP. The statue monolith has no available measurements for the "largest" Rizal monument.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Public Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, 5 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Makati Ave.), Makati City; fax nos. 897-8310/896-6214; email address: [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph.

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'Falcon' now a tropical storm

By Leila B. Salaverria

TROPICAL Depression "Falcon" intensified into a tropical storm yesterday, but the weather bureau said the new weather disturbance was not expected to make landfall in the country.

As of early morning yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has not raised any storm warning signal in any part of the country.

But Pagasa said Falcon would bring occasional rains over the country and those could become widespread over the eastern section of Bicol region, Samar, the Visayas and Mindanao. These could also trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Falcon has so far remained on its track, and is to headed for southern Japan. There is a possibility that it may not leave the Philippine area of responsibility by Saturday.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, Falcon was located 370 kilometers east-northeast of Virac, Catanduanes.

It was moving west-northwest at 19 kilometers per hour and packed maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 80 kph.

By this morning, it is forecast to be 180 km east-northeast of Guiuan, Samar and by Friday morning, it is expected to be 300 km northeast of Basco, Batanes. It is followed to be 740 km north-northeast of Basco, or 40 km southwest of Okinawa, Japan by Saturday.

Incessant rains over the past few days have contributed to the rise of floodwaters in Mindanao, displacing thousands.

Flooding has also led to the cancellation of classes in Lanao.

Typhoon "Egay" and floods due to persistent rains caused an estimated P116.12 million in agricultural damage, according to a consolidated report from the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DA based the initial estimate on reports from Cagayan (I), (II), reconstruction Region in Muslim Mindanao from five provinces (Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City and Maguindanao).

"The loss is mainly due to damaged crops (rice, corn, and high value crops) and loss/dead livestock and poultry," the DA said.

The DA said that as of June 21, the total crop area affected had reached 17,604 hectares, with 13,304 hectares or 74 percent still considered of recovery.

Losses from dead or lost livestock and poultry amounted to P747,000.

Rice area affected covers 11,384 hectares resulting in a loss of 3,939 metric tons of palay valued at P66 million.

But the volume represents only 0.11 percent of the national production forecast of 3,496,000 S tons to the third quarter (July to December).

Most of the affected rice area (86 percent) is in the southern and cooperative stage. Direct losses from riparian and second PCIC million, the DA said.

Corn area affected totaled 6,135 hectares resulting in a production loss of 6,234 tons corn valued at P81 million.

The volume of lost corn comprises only 0.26 percent of the third quarter national production forecast of 2,350,000 tons. Corn areas affected were mostly in the seedling and vegetative stage (69 percent) resulting in lost income of P32.4million.

The DA singled out the province of Maguindanao as the area that suffered the biggest loss. Agricultural damage in the province was estimated at P277 million.

The DA said the majority of lost poultry (2,723 tons raw and 1,023 tons corn) came from this province.

With a report from Rino T. Oblenorbe

TRACKING FALCON: A weatherman shows the path of Tropical Storm "Falcon."

ALEX QUIJANO

Aquino to convene Ledac

PRESIDENT Aquino will be convening the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) on July 12, Malacañang said yesterday.

The announcement came following the signing by the President of four new laws that are seen to help the poor and the labor force.

According to Mr. Aquino, the new laws were "first the beginning of many programs and support legislation to be instituted for the benefit of our people."

The President chairs the Ledac which is also a cooperative and advisory body to the Chief Executive. Its members include the Vice President, the Senate President, the House Speaker, seven Cabinet members, three senators, three House members, and one representative each from local government, youth and the private sector.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said a news briefing yesterday Executive Secretary Jojo Ochoa would be asked "if there are any new bills that we would like to push for."

Asked if the reproductive health (RH) bill will be included in the list of priority measures to be presented to Congress through Ledac, Lacierda said: "It's ongoing. It's already for debate."

He could not say whether the freedom of information bill would be denied a priority measure either.

"We have a draft. It's with (Budget Secretary Butch) Abad. We have to discuss with him the status of our draft," Lacierda said. Norman Bordadora

'Paglaking Sapat, Kalayaan sa Kagutuman ay Ganap'

DA's 113th anniversary highlights rice self-sufficiency, food security thrusts

The Department of Agriculture today observes its 113th anniversary with the theme, Pagsisig Sapat, Kalayaan sa Kagutuman sa Ganap.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala said this year's theme embodies the renewed commitment of President Benigno S. Aquino III at the June 13, 2011 115th Philippine Independence Day celebration in Cavite City in the morning, and later in the afternoon, at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

In particular, Independence Day speech at Quirino Grandstand, President Aquino said the country will no longer be a rice importer by the end of his term in 2016.

"Sa loha-loha ay ngayon natin, pwedeh pong sinyo kayo kamdon sa pwesto at kongkreto ng ituros ni Pres. Noynoy Aquino ang pagkain sa hapag ng bawat Pilipino, ito ang mapatutunayan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda."

Alcala said the commitment of the President to end rice importation is achievable "because we have the technology, know-how and determination."

"Ito na nga po ang katuparang hangad ng ating ama-amahan, ang unang Kalayaan at dapat nakamtan ng ang Kalayaang nga Pilipino mula sa gutom," President Aquino said.

Further, he projected a bumper crop in 2011 the country will no longer be a rice importer by the end of his term.

"Sa loha-loha ay ngayon natin, pwedeh pong sinyo kayo kamdon sa pwesto at kongkreto ng ituros ni Pres. Noynoy Aquino ang pagkain sa hapag ng bawat Pilipino, ito ang mapatutunayan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda."

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Alcala said the commitment of the President to end rice importation is achievable "because we have the technology, know-how and determination."

For its part, the Department of Agriculture is committed to **"ensure sufficiency, affordability and availability of rice for all Filipinos at all times."**

For the year 2011, the DA has set aside a budget of P62.2 billion to implement its programs and projects.

The DA has also set aside P10.8 billion for the National Rice Program (NRP), thereby increasing the budget for the NRP by 20.53 percent, enough to sell rice for as low as P18.75 per kilo.

The DA also has set aside P15.7 billion for the Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), which aims to provide farmers with access to credit and other financial services.

The DA has also set aside P1.5 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), which aims to provide farmers with access to credit and other financial services.

The DA has also set aside P1.5 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), which aims to provide farmers with access to credit and other financial services.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso "Proce" Alcala (right) says "we have every reason to believe that we can sufficiency can be done. We have the technology, know-how and land resources, and the political will to achieve it."

• Increasing production and consumption of other staples like white corn, potato, cassava, sweet potato, and other root crops.

• Reduction of rice farm exodus, equivalent to the establishment of irrigation, farm to market roads, and other support services to farm areas to prevent conversion of farms to other purposes.

Fighting the Peace of Poverty, Hunger

Since the assumed office in July 2010, Sec. Alcala has been conducting regular meetings with agriculture officials and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make sure a smooth start in the tasks and in their respective farming and fishing communities.

Sec. Alcala also directed DA regional executive directors to meet their counterparts in their area of jurisdiction, to provide assistance and technical support to farmers and fisherfolk, and to coordinate with the implementing units down to the grassroots, farmers, and workers.

Alcala recently, he has consulted with farmers, fisherfolk, and agriculture and agribusiness officials and industry groups, including cooperatives and farmers' associations (FAs) nationwide to ensure that any production targets are met, and support services are implemented in a timely and efficient manner.

Alcala also directed DA regional executive directors to advance local economy. Undisputedly, provide the proper conditions for agriculture and fisheries to flourish, and to implement agricultural and fisheries programs and projects in all provinces.

Sec. Alcala also directed DA regional executive directors to make commodities the core, fisheries, livestock, high value crops, coconut and sugar, cultivated and fisheries, and organic agriculture and fisheries.

Sec. Alcala also is campaigning to inform all the Department of Agriculture Partners (DAPs) and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through a national convergence initiative aimed at harmonizing resources, programs, projects, and activities to ensure sustainable agricultural production in the countryside.

Now's the best time to plant trees

By Tarra Quismundo

SAYING the wet season is the perfect time to go green, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling on the public to take advantage of the weather and plant trees in and of government's National Greening Program (NGP).

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje made the call as the DENR geared for the celebration of Arbor Day on Saturday, saying the commemoration is "more significant... as the effort to win back the country's down has been launched" under the NGP.

The NGP seeks to reforest some 1.5 billion trees on 1.5 million hectares of government-selected lands from this year until 2016. The program covers just parts of roughly eight million hectares of Philippine forestland that is currently "open and degraded," Paje said.

"It is therefore of utmost importance that we plant every day, and this will increase even more compelling for all of us considering that this prevailing weather conditions is just part of the country allows for during very important dry days," Paje said in a statement.

With the day being some provided the perfect opportunity to grow more and other plants.

Paje said some 200 volunteers will start, today, by helping some 600 Manobos up the Ipo watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan, on Saturday to plant some 2,000 seedlings of mario and cupang.

MENSAHE

Binibining Arlene D. Arboleda
Hepe, Republika ng Pilipinas

Hepe, Republika ng Pilipinas

HINDRO J. ALCALA
Kalihim, Kagawaran ng Pagkaing

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THE LANDMARK
MAKATI TRINOMA

Long-delayed repair of Pag-asa airstrip to start 'anytime now'

By Dona Z. Pazolbuyan

ZAMBOANGA (online) Some Presidential agencies, this long-delayed repair of (the) airstrip in one of the Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys would start "anytime now," the top military commander in the area said yesterday.

The airstrip on Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) has fallen to disuse several years ago.

Lt. Gen. Jaime C. Aldon, Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command chief, said that some construction equipment materials had been unloaded and more would be arriving.

"The materials will be brought in (to) the equipment of the Philippine Air Force engineers are already there. (The repair will start) anytime now," Aldon said.

"That is a priority. The order of the Commander in Chief is it should start as soon as possible," he continued.

Allocation

The AFP has allocated P90 million to repair the dilapidated runway on Pag-asa, the biggest island in the part of the Spratlys claimed by the Philippines and dubbed the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG).

Pag-asa has an airstrip and basic facilities for the group of soldiers and civilians living there. The airstrip, however, has long been neglected.

The Philippines has recently accused China of at least six incursions in Philippine-claimed territory.

Manila filed a diplomatic protest in March after two Chinese Navy gunboats harassed a government oil exploration vessel in the Reed Bank (Recto Bank) which it claims to be within Philippine territory and not part of the contested area.

Manila again filed a diplomatic protest in May after Chinese ships laid one more time, a buoy and building materials in Jackson Reef (Mabini Reef) a few days after the official visit of Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie.

Code of conduct

The Philippines has invoked the 2002 Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea between the Association of South East Asian Nations and China. The calls for restraint and avoiding activities that might escalate tensions, aside from the commencement of talks to facilitate and holding war games.

Esperon said the repair of the airstrip was not a violation of the declaration. "The airstrip has been there since 1971. There are no new structures. There's no problem with the repair. That structure has been there for a long time," he said.

Aquino to China: Let's adhere to UN pact

From page A1

keep on saying that let us adhere to international law and let the 1982 (law) the international law involved is (inclusive)," he said.

He said the Unclos, adopted by countries including China in 1982, provides for an exclusive economic zone 320 kilometers (200 nautical miles) from a country's continental shelf.

Noting that the Recto Bank is just 150 km from Palawan, Malaysia said the area is beyond China's economic zone because it is 900 km from Hainan Island which is China's nearest point.

"We expect China to adhere to that and with American backing to up and other Asean claimants, we expect that the UN, Asean and other international parties, who have no interest (in) body of water will insist on their freedom of navigation and adherence to (Unclos)."

China tells US to keep off

But in Beijing, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai urged the United States on Wednesday to leave the West Philippine Sea dispute to the claimant states, saying that the US involvement may make the situation worse.

Cui's comments to reporters was China's most direct warning to Washington in recent weeks. It came amid the biggest flare-up in regional tensions in years over competing maritime sovereignty claims in the disputed territory, an area believed to be rich in oil and gas.

China has become more assertive in its claim to the waters, parts of which are also claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

"The United States is not a claimant state to the dispute in the South China Sea and so it's better for the United States to leave the dispute to be sorted out between (various) states," Cui said at a briefing ahead of the first round of consultations on Asia-Pacific affairs in financial turmoil.

Wrong to care in

The President defended the Philippines' assertion of its sovereignty over its territory in the West Philippine Sea, saying it would be wrong to care in to China's claims just because it's a bigger country.

"We've already filed many protests. There've already filed protests against us. What's important here is ... let them defend themselves in the international fora as to where the validity of their claim lies to," he said.

"So as, just to move forward, we may not agree on the disputed territories like, for instance, the Spratlys but we didn't have any dispute over the Reed Bank. We've been there since the 1970s. It seems they came up with their nine-dash theory only in late 2008," he added.

China's relatively new nine-dash theory refers to its map that indicates its sovereignty over the South China Sea, or as the Philippines would call it, the West Philippine Sea.

Duty-bound

"Why was this area excluded (from the dispute) suddenly in (before)?" Mr. Aquino said.

"I don't think that I would be doing my duty to the people and to the wars if (not) agree (with China) that, 'No ahead. Take whatever you want because you're bigger than us.' That seems to be a wrong principle," Mr. Aquino said.

"Our basis for our claim is well-founded supposedly under this treaty, ratified by so many countries including China."

Mr. Aquino made the remarks after Sen. John McCain called on Washington to extend military and political support to concerned members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in stand up to China over the contested territories.

Playing with fire

"While some American friends may want the United States to help in this matter, we appreciate their gesture, but more often than not such gestures will only make things more complicated," Cui said.

Cui said US Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell will submit the constitution in Hawaii.

"If the United States wants to play a role, it may contact assistance to those countries that have been taking provocative action and ask them to be more responsible in their behavior," he said.

"I believe the individual countries are actually playing with fire and I hope the fire will not be drawn to the United States."

Not responsible

Cui emphasized that China was not responsible for the dispute in the West Philippine Sea and said it was greatly concerned by frequent provocations by other countries.

"We are troubled by some recent events in the South China Sea but we were not the party who provoked these incidents," he said.

"If you examine the facts closely, you will recognize who are the countries that have occupied islands under other countries' sovereignty by illegal means. It was certainly not China. What are the countries that have done the most to explore oil and gas resources in the region? It was certainly not China, he added.

"Who are the countries that displayed force or used force against the fishermen of other countries? Again, it was certainly not China."

Largest claim

China's claim is by far the largest, forming a large U-shaped line covering 1.3 million square kilometers, including the Spratly and Paracel archipelagos.

The latest spell of tension began late month when Vietnam said Chinese boats had harassed a ship conducting seismic operations. China said Vietnamese oil and gas exploration undermined its rights in the West Philippine Sea. Hanoi refers to the body of water as the East Sea.

Tensions eased from Vietnam and China held a two-day joint period in the Gulf of Tonkin, the state-run media reported on Tuesday in a sign that tension over the disputed maritime border may be easing. With a report from Reuters

MCCAIN'S VISITORS Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia and Foreign Secretary Albert F. del Rosario meet with US Sen. John McCain in Washington on Tuesday.

Media groups thank SC for allowing live coverage

By Michael Marinas

BROADCAST companies and media groups yesterday thanked the Supreme Court for allowing the live coverage of the Maguindanao massacre case trial, saying the move would help raise public awareness on the killing of journalists.

Led by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), the media groups met with Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator Midas Marquez to convey their thanks and seek clarifications on the coverage guidelines set by the tribunal.

The NUJP's secretary general Rolando Panaro also expressed gratitude to Chief Justice Renato Corona for ordering the live video streaming of the trial proceedings on the Internet.

"Basically, we're very happy with the decision to allow the live coverage. Nothing can beat that opportunity," Panaro said reporters after the hour-long meeting with Marquez.

"We don't mind the guidelines. What we really wanted was to give the public access to what's happening during the trial," she said, adding that the NUJP and other media groups present at the meeting were not inclined to appeal the high court's June 14 resolution.

No commercial breaks

During the meeting, Rappler.com.ph Inquirer.net Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Sheila Ramos asked Marquez to explain the policy banning commercial breaks during the live coverage.

Barbara said broadcast firms had already entered into contracts with corporate sponsors and advertisers and were concerned about the possible loss.

"There are some portions of the guidelines that we would have wanted to modify. But we will respect whatever decision the court will make," he said.

In response, Marquez told the media groups that the policies laid down by the high court should be strictly observed.

He said the justices had assured the district judge "to balance the rights of the accused and the right of the people to information and the freedom of the press."

"I hope you understand why the court issued those guidelines... (It) also wanted to ensure order inside the courtroom during the proceedings," he said.

Marquez reiterated that broadcast companies found violating the guidelines could lose their accreditation and be cited for contempt of court.

He said anchors and broadcasters wanting to air their opinions during the coverage "should do it on their own."

"Their comments will be subject to the court's sub judice rule," he said.

Kin grieve on witness stand of Maguindanao massacre trial

From page A1

She said tearfully that she was seeking P1.5 million in actual and exemplary damages, adding that "(t)o million would not be enough to compensate for all the suffering that we were through and are going through."

"As long as we do not get justice, we will continue to suffer," she said at the hearing conducted in a special courtroom at the maximum security prison compound in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

Victim of chance

Sobbing on the witness stand, Beth de los Reyes said she was seeking damages of P25 million, representing the lost earnings of her son, who was an employee of the city government of Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat.

But she said no amount of money could ease the hurt caused by the loss of her son, whom she described as "a victim of chance."

Daisyl Vincent de los Reyes, driver one of the cars that united truck supposedly under the Ampatuans' control had flagged down, thinking it was part of the convoy of the late Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., his political rivals.

He was killed along with at least 57 others in what is believed to be the worst election-related violence in the country. The body of a reported 58th victim has yet to be found.

"I know that nothing can replace the life of your son," Senior Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro told Beth de los Reyes during the examination for the civil aspect of the case. "But if there's anything that the court ... could give you, what would it be?"

"I want justice to be served," the mother said before again breaking into tears.

She described her son as a "good, responsible" man who looked after his parents, worked in past his siblings through school, and paid some of the household's bills.

Lost dreams

Gloria Tendero said she (she) chose to total oblique when she learned of her husband's killing.

"When I saw his body it was like I had lost my sanity. It was like our world was coming to an end," she said. "I felt hopeless... He was the person from whom we got strength and support. When (they) were passing his coffin (in) his south, I felt that our dreams went with him."

Tendero testified that she had three children by her husband Andy (aged 7, 9 and 15 at the time of the massacre) and four stepchildren whom she helped raise (now aged from 26 to 37).

She said that Andy used to give her around P500 daily or P3,000 during payday, and that she was earning a living as an occasional masseuse and seamstress.

She said her eldest son had been unable to go to college for lack of tuition money.

"He was a hitting ballad (and) he dreamed his love for him," Tendero said of her husband, adding:

"His death had a big impact on us. I could not sleep and just cry. I could not eat because I was thinking of him."

Tendero said her children became quiet and withdrawn and no longer want to go to school.

"When they're asked about their father, they get angry. How will I raise my children now that he's gone?"

Receipt demanded

Some of the accused (unseen) apparently to the tearful testimonies.

The date parties, former Maguindanao Gov. Datuk Andal Ampatuan Sr., was not present, his lawyers having waived his appearance at the hearings. He was arraigned early about two weeks ago.

Defense lawyer Jimin Real questioned Tendero for failing to present a receipt for the P65,000 she said she had spent for her husband's funeral.

The witness, who lives in Tacurong, said she had considered to get a receipt from the funeral parlor but that the owner was in Manila at the time.

Real also asked Tendero who had paid for her plane ticket and accommodations in Manila. He said he wanted to know "if some people are behind her" and helping her because she had come to Manila "even without a court subpoena" summoning her.

Tendero said her son siblings were helping with her expenses.

Prosecutors protested Real's line of questioning, saying his questions were "irrelevant." With a report from Mike Sarcilla

HEARTACHE TRIAL LIVE There's no live streaming yet for convenience on Wednesday started shooting before the resumption of the Ampatuan massacre trial at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

Solons back BIR plan to tax excess poll funds

By Gil Cabacungan

MORE legislators yesterday gave their support to a bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) plan to slap taxes on excess campaign contributions but expressed doubts on how the agency would determine how much to tax.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said that while the BIR's initiative starts to bond good governance with the public, he is not yet sure how it would go about administering and enforcing it.

Zambales Rep. Mitzgaro Magsaysay she did not mind the BIR move as she recognized the agency was desperate to raise funds. She noted that the government was scrambling to keep the deficit within target because declining tax and duty collections.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said he doubted whether the politicians and the BIR would agree on how much should be taxed from their campaign contributions.

"I don't how they can determine and agree on how much are overstating," he said.

Under the Omnibus Election Code, campaign contributions are exempt from the donor's tax of between 2 percent and 32 percent. Recipients are required to submit a statement of expenditures where the unused campaign contributions are booked as a windfall profit.

The fifth Revenue Regulation 7-2011 issued last June 14 will now require politicians to declare these excess campaign funds as income subject to the standard rates.

The BIR's move is meant to go after politicians who, will or lost, earn millions in every election cycle from unused campaign funds.

Aside from the BIR, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has also revealed plans to enact laws to allow officials to monitor campaign donations and expenses, beginning with the 2013 midterm elections.

P22-M MALVERSATION CASE

Court clears ex-Marcos exec

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE Sandiganbayan has cleared a former Marcos government official of a P22-million malversation charge, saying there was no evidence that he had used the money for his own benefit.

Acquitted was Juan Soliven Abling, former executive director of the Philippine Export Promotion Zone Authority (PEPZA) under the office of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The funds that Abling was accused of misusing were part of the P85-million that was withdrawn supposedly to pay miscellaneous expenses as directed by Marcos shortly before the snap elections in 1986.

Following the John Hegle House Resolution that deposed Marcos, the new Commission on Audit found that only P1.9 million of the P85-million was delivered to the PEPZA. Abling was asked to liquidate the remaining P22 million and submit supporting documents.

Abling sent a letter and documents to the COA in which he cited as support the liquidation, his no receipts or list of projects were submitted. The COA subsequently demanded that he refund the P22 million, and filed the malversation charges against Abling.

In its ruling, the antigraft court's 2nd Division took note of Abling's testimony that he had delivered the P22 million to Marcos and that he had been drafted as a memorandum showing that the dictator had accepted the payment. He also said Marcos had signed the document as he gave it to him, and that he had received the amount.

The prosecution contended that the signatures were inadmissible as evidence, but the court denied this for lack of merit. The court that the evidence that Marcos had received the amount was uncontested, the court said.

Given Abling's explanation, the court said the prosecution should have presented direct evidence to show that he had used the money for his personal use.

"However, the presentation did not affect its evidence the fact of misappropriation by the accused. There is simply nothing in the records which would show or otherwise suggest that the accused has appropriated for his benefit the amount of P22 million," it said.

It noted that based on jurisprudence, when the absence of funds is not explained, it is circumstantial evidence that the public officer's failure to have the funds is evidence that he had put it to personal use does not stand.

The decision was penned by Justice Samuel Martires. Presiding Justice Edgardo Sandoval and Justice Rosario Quiroz-Bubiles concurred with the ruling.

PCGG wants to void sale of Pasig lot

By Dave Quintos Iñigo

THE Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) wants to reverse the alleged "grossly disadvantageous sale" of a prime P4.3-billion state-owned land being City to an affiliate of property giant SM Development Corp., its records show.

The PCGG filed on Tuesday an affidavit of adverse claim before the Pasig City Register of Deeds "to prevent the transfer" of a property of state-owned Philippine Integrated Meat Corporation (Philmeat).

Officials said their predecessors at the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General waived the state's rights to the lot to facilitate its sale to the SM Group's Consolidated Property Development Corp. for roughly P1 billion in 2009, resulting in losses of P4.3 billion for the government.

SM officials declined to comment on the allegations.

PCGG chair Andres Bautista said the lot sale was "another outright transaction, of the previous administration."

The lot was originally under a lease purchase agreement between Philmeat and the Meat Packing Corporation of the Philippines (MPCP), a subsidiary of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). The lease expired in 2009, giving Philmeat preferential rights.

In August 2009, Consolidated Prime Dev Corp. (Consolidated) initiated discussions with the PCGG and Meat Packing/GSIS for the acquisition of the 12.29-hectare property at Barrio Ugong along C-5 owned by MPCP.

MPCP wanted to cancel the lease-purchase agreement with Philmeat for non-payment of rent.

In July 2010, the Sandiganbayan ruled for Philmeat and upheld the effectivity of the lease purchase agreement. MPCP executed the sale to the supreme Court.

Philmeat was then controlled 33 percent by Inter Salinda and 30 percent by Independent Realty Corp. (IRC).

Consolidated sought to acquire controlling ownership of Philmeat by purchasing Salinda's and IRC's respective shares with the approval of the PCGG and the Sandiganbayan.

With that acquisition, Consolidated would make Philmeat to negotiate with MPCP/GSIS, a consequence of the latter's appeal pending before the Supreme Court in order to exercise its right to purchase the property under the terms of the lease purchase agreement.

In December 2009, Consolidated, together with Salinda and Philmeat executed a general Memorandum of Agreement with the PCGG in respect of the acquisition of the Philcan shares of Salinda and of IRC and in the execution of a general Memorandum of Agreement with MPCP and GSIS in respect of Philmeat's purchase of the property from MPCP.

On March 29, 2010, the Sandiganbayan approved a compromise agreement between the PCGG and Philmeat and Salinda, authorizing the sale to Consolidated of the 33 percent and 30 percent stake of Salinda and IRC in Philmeat.

Physiatrists to hold run for the disabled

PHYSIATRISTS, specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation of victims of disabilities, the Philippine Rehabilitation Medicine Society (PRMS) will hold the MOVE Manila Run 2011 at 5 a.m. on July 17 at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City for the benefit of needy persons with disabilities, one of society's most underserved sectors.

MOVE stands for "Making Our Selves Vigilant in Exercise," an advocacy for exercise awareness in the community, combined with a fundraising drive for indigent persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The advocacy aims to empower with disabilities for their medical and rehabilitative care, help athletes with disabilities to participate in sports, supports skills training, disability awareness and prevention, medical and health care for health Charity Clinic of the PMRS-Philippine Global Association.

This year, PRMS chairs the national working committee (WOC) of the 53rd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week. The WOC is composed of government agencies, non-government organizations and different PWD organizations. Together with the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), Mysona ng may Isa, pioneering Dress (MAPinoy) and the office of Quezon City Councilor Ana Abigail Vargas.

Organizers of the run expect to draw at least 100 wheelchair athletes, elite persons of various disabilities, families and friends and celebrities like basketball players from the Philippine Basketball Association.

MOVE Manila Run 2011 jumpstarts the nationwide awakening celebration of disability prevention and rehabilitation.

In 2012 and beyond, PRMS aims to continue the advocacy by forming similar runs in other key cities of the country like Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao.

For the past three and a half decades, physiatrists—medical doctors specializing in physical and rehabilitation medicine—have organized chapters under PRMS to promote excellence in rehabilitation care. The academy has almost 300 members all over the country.

Race organizers said they aim to raise at least P500,000 from the event. With the fund, the group aims to help not only in raising awareness about disability but also to assist in dealing with other mental health related issues.

PAL flights to Australia resume

PHILIPPINE Airlines resumed regular flight service to Australia resumed yesterday following a simple consolidation on Tuesday due to volcanic ash that engulfed Australia's two Melbourne.

(MLJN) 211 Debris in Sydney-Melbourne) took off at 9:20 a.m. using a PAL Airbus A340 aircraft. Its 140 passengers include those supposed to take Tuesday's canceled flight for Melbourne and Sydney.

(MLJN) Manila-Melbourne-Sydney) was canceled on Tuesday as a precautionary measure to ensure passenger safety after volcanic ash drawn from Chile reached some parts of Australia.

The volcanic cloud traveled across the Pacific from Chile's Puyehue-Cordón Caulle volcano, which erupted on June 5.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

JUNE 23 (Thursday)
Psalter: Week 4
1 Chr 29:10-12; Lk 12:35-38
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
1st Reading: Sirach 48:1-14; 15-16

Hymn: Hymn to God, "How glorious is your name, O Lord, in all the earth!" Then Elijah stood before and finally that the sun arose.

The angel of Yahweh found her near a spring in the wilderness and said to her, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I'm running away from Sarai, my mistress." The angel of Yahweh said to her, You have to your mistress and humbly submit yourself to her." The angel of Yahweh said to her, "I will so greatly increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to be counted." Then the angel of Yahweh said to her, "Now you are with child and you will bear a son; you shall name him Ishmael, for Yahweh has heard your distress. He shall be a wild ass of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against his, dwelling towards all his brothers."

I lift up my hands to you and Moses called the child Hagar bore him, Ishmael. Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.

Gospel: Mt 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not speak in your name, and drive out demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them openly: I have never known you; away from me, you evil people!"

"So, then, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, and it collapsed, and what a terrible fall there was!" When Jesus had finished this discourse, the crowds were struck by the way he taught, because he taught with authority unlike their teachers of the law.

Reflection:

Jesus spoke and taught with authority because his words are unquestionably radical, relevant and refreshing. His words are radical because they are the very core of Christian Christianity—God. Jesus calls us to proclaim or bring unto life in Him, free from the verbose pretensions of misguided piety. Jesus' words are relevant because they are from foundations where we can build our life on. Jesus words are also refreshing because they give us hope that we can rise above the storms of life that may attack us. We would not survive the storms of life without Jesus' words of encouragement to trust Him and to rely wholly unto Him.

Christian Communications Foundation, Inc., 8 Mercedes St., Off Edsa, Ortigas, Quezon City, 1550, Metro Manila. (632) 6344-1188, Fax No. (632) 631-4454. Email: ccfi@pacific.net.ph. Website: http://www.ccfi.com.ph. Bible Reference: http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.htm. Liturgical Reference: http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/index.shtml. Copyright © CCFI. All Rights Reserved.

Finance award for Calapan market

CALAPAN CITY has won a major infrastructure award by the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP). Mayor Paulino Salvador "Boy" Lucman reported to President Aquino.

In a press statement, Lucman said the city won the ADFIAP's outstanding development project under the Infrastructure Development Awards Category for 2010 for the construction of the three-modern public market in the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (MIMAROPA) region.

He said the President had personally asked for himself several projects for the socio-economic development of the city in his official visit to inaugurate the P200-million New Calapan City Public Market in December 2010.

"I am pretty sure the President is happy for us for being able to bring our state-of-the-art markets to the attention of the world and was such an award," he said.

From the old public markets razed by fire for the third time in May 2008, the 9,000-square meter modern facility was built to spur economic growth and uplift the lives of the people. It is equipped with an elevator and an escalator and houses stalls for dry goods and wet section.

The structure has a passenger jeepney terminal, ample parking space and built to speed ready.

The President led the inauguration of the new market public market, which is touted as the "most modern and beautiful" in the Mimaropa Region. It was funded by Land Bank of the Philippines.

Adlfad, founded in 1976, is the focal point of all development banks and other financial institutions engaged in the financing of development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Calapan City was honored as Adlfad's outstanding development projects under the Infrastructure Development Awards Category for the 2010.

"The award is something dear to President Aquino since he is himself into the city's economic change and development, such as the construction and operation of a modern public market," Lucman said.

He said the President's visit to Calapan was an opportunity for Calapeños to showcase their initiatives to undertake world-class major infrastructure projects.

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC)
Office of the Executive Director
Commonwealth of Southeastern Philippines Transport Service Review Board
Intramuros, Manila, Philippines
Land Bid: 1743-PH

June 22, 2011

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received or will receive from the World Bank (counterpart) a grant of Nineteen Million Dollars ($19,000,000.00) to finance the cost of the Philippine Transport Modernization Project (PTMP) and it intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this grant for the payment of eligible expenditures under the Contract for Supply and Delivery of Motorized Bodegas Pumpers – 1,500 Gal Fire Trucks for Medical Relief (MMR) Project (Contract No. 1743-PH).

2. Bidding will be conducted through open international competitive procedures as specified in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, dated May 2004, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Guidelines.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and the payment of a nonrefundable fee in the form of a Manager's Check or Cashier's Check in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PHP 2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be purchased personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from June 24 to July 15, 2011.

5. The Procuring Entity will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders at 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2011 at the following address: Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bidding Office, Commonwealth of Southeastern Philippines Transport Service Review Board, Capitol Compound, Calapeño Avenue, Poblacion, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

6. Eligible bidders should submit their bids at the address indicated on or before July 27, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by either security in the form of cash, certified check/cashier's or manager's check, bank guaranteed or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank operating in the Philippines, or surety bond callable on demand, in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP 200,000.00). Bids will be opened on the same day at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bidding Office, Commonwealth of Southeastern Philippines Transport Service Review Board, Capitol Compound, Calapeño Avenue, Poblacion, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

7. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BTC-SEPHILPTSRB-GOODS-0011

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Atty. Elbo, Tan-Yu Bidding
Capitol Compound, Calapeño Avenue
Poblacion, Calapan City

Signature of the BAC Chairman or Authorized Representative

71% trust Aquino, says latest Pulse Asia poll

From page A1

The Pulse Asia survey results were released on the heels of those of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey which found 64 percent satisfied with Mr. Aquino's performance.

In a phone interview yesterday Pulse Asia president Ronald Holmes said the two organizations' surveys could not be compared because they were conducted in different time periods and the questions asked were phrased differently.

The SWS survey was conducted on June 3-6. Pulse Asia conducted its survey from May 21 to June 4 on a sample of 1,200 representative adults, using face-to-face interviews. The results have an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Steep drop in Visayas

In the Pulse Asia survey 7 percent expressed mixed to neutral in the President and 11 were undecided. It proved the approval of his performance and 21 percent were undecided on the matter.

The only significant change between the two surveys was the steep drop in the President's ratings in the Visayas: 89 per her balance rating fell from 82 percent in March to 66 percent in May and his trust rating, from 84 percent to March to 70 percent in May.

"For the most part, these figures do not vary significantly from the presidential ratings recorded by Pulse Asia in March 2011," the poll firm said.

The President posted a 75-percent approval rating and a 74-percent performance rating in March.

Compared to October 2010, his approval rating declined by 8 points (from 79 percent in October to 71 percent in May), while his trust rating likewise decreased by 9 points (from 80 percent in October to 71 percent in May).

Decline marginal

According to Holmes, a decline in ratings is "normal," as the poll firm has observed the same trend in past administrations.

"Sometimes the decline is significant, but in the case of President Aquino, decline is consistent but is marginal, or within the margin of error," Holmes said.

He said the declining approval numbers could be attributed to respondents who might be "withholding their judgment" of Mr. Aquino.

The Pulse Asia survey showed the President enjoying majority approval ratings across geographic areas, ranging from 57 percent in Metro Manila to 77 percent in Mindanao.

Across socioeconomic groupings, approval levels varied from 62 percent among Classes ABC to 77 percent of the poorest Class E.

With respect to disapproval ratings, double-digit figures were obtained among Classes ABC (14 percent) and Metro Manila (15 percent); single digit ratings were posted in the other geographic areas (6 percent to 7 percent) and socioeconomic classes (5 percent to 8 percent).

Levels of public satisfaction regarding Mr. Aquino's work performance were nearly constant across geographic areas (15 percent to 20 percent) and socioeconomic groupings (18 percent to 23 percent).

Also, nearly constant were levels of public satisfaction as measured using Mr. Aquino (geographic areas, 17 to 29 percent; socioeconomic groupings, 17 to 23 percent).

11 issues

Most of the respondents said they believed that the administration had done well on 6 of 11 issues—fighting criminality (66 percent), enforcing the law equally (177 percent), improving the national peace situation (55 percent), fighting corruption in government (56 percent), creating more jobs (53 percent) and increasing workers' pay (51 percent).

The respondents said they considered the other issues as the most urgent: improving income, increasing workers' pay (chosen by 54 percent), controlling inflation (chosen by 53 percent) and fighting graft and corruption (chosen by 48 percent).

Majorities also said they believed the administration did well with improving and increasing workers' pay (51 percent approval rating) and fighting graft and corruption (56 percent approval), but only 36 percent expressed approval for the administration's performance in inflation.

The administration posted gloomy approval ratings on three other issues—preventing the environment (34 percent), strengthening public trust in the government and its officials (49 percent) and controlling population growth (46 percent).

On the issue of poverty reduction, practically the same percentages approved of the administration's work (46 percent) or were ambivalent (39 percent).

Public disapproval was most pronounced on the issue of controlling inflation (29 percent).

During the period March-May, the only significant change in the administration's performance ratings was on the issue of equal law enforcement: up by 8 percentage points, from 49 percent in March to 57 percent in May.

Improvement expected

Malacañang expects the President's performance rating to push up as infrastructure projects are rolled out and poor created to his campaigns against graft and corruption show fruit.

"The next survey will be done three months from now. We hope to improve. We will have infrastructure spending," Ullano Lacierda, Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, said at yesterday's news briefing.

Lacierda mentioned as an example the construction of a flyover in Cagayan de Oro City had delivered one lockdown, one water and 12 barge components to the area.

"The dragged area is no more, the DPWH personnel have returned to pulling the water lines manually," she said.

Holmes said choosing specific issues was mainly being carried out by the DPWH office in Central Mindanao, which had two dredgers and additional support from military and civilian government personnel.

Also on Wednesday, Public Works Undersecretary for Regional Operations Rommel Marasigan said the DPWH had been negligent in its flood control program done in Mindanao.

"We were there since Day One. From 20 hectares of water lilies, [that had to be cleared], it's now only 2.5 [in," Montes reported].

"We got equipment from different parts of Catabato. It took us four days to re-mobilize. But we were able to reduce it. We're down to just 2.5 hectares. But there were so many water lilies," he said.

Montes added that up to 70 DPWH personnel had been conducting 24-hour dredging and dredging operations in Rio Grande. — Jerome Aning

Performance Ratings of the Aquino Administration on Selected Issues (May 21-June 4, 2011)

National Issues	Approve	Disapprove	Net Approval Rating (Positive - Negative)
Controlling inflation	36	65	-29
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	46	31	+15
Controlling the population growth	46	14	+32
Improving the economy (e.g. jobs)	51	17	+34
Stopping the destruction and abuse of environment	34	14	+20
Strengthening people's trust in the government's anti-crime efforts	49	8	+41
Fighting graft and corruption in government	56	14	+42
Increasing peace in the country	37	18	+19
Enforcing the law to all	57	8	+49
Fighting criminality	66	11	+55

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA

Performance Rating of President Aquino

May 21-June 4, 2011

	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove
TOTAL	71	21	8
LOCATION			
Metro Manila	57	28	15
Balance Luzon	75	20	5
Visayas	66	28	7
Mindanao	79	15	6
SOCIAL CLASS			
ABC	63	23	14
D	74	20	6
E	77	18	5

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA

Trust Rating of President Aquino

May 21-June 4, 2011

	Big Trust	Undecided	Small/ No Trust
TOTAL	71	22	7
LOCATION			
Metro Manila	60	29	11
Balance Luzon	73	22	5
Visayas	70	22	8
Mindanao	79	15	6
SOCIAL CLASS			
ABC	62	26	12
D	73	22	5
E	74	17	9

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA

P-Noy leads 'war vs water hyacinths' in Mindanao's Rio Grande

From page A1

the river to overflow after days of heavy rain. Floodwaters have submerged at least 37 villages in Cotabato City alone and displaced some 6,000 families.

Mr. Aquino said the government would also study long-term plans to control the growth of the water lilies, aside from just removing them from the river.

He said the plants may also be harvested on a commercial scale and turned into fiber or biofuel.

Alternative energy source

Mr. Aquino said he would ask the Interior and various department secretaries to conduct feasibility studies on the possible use of water lilies as alternative energy sources.

"I assure you that even when I'm back in Manila, the recovery of the water lilies will continue," the President said in a media briefing.

"The government will definitely help you and the local governments resolve the problem of water hyacinths," Mr. Aquino said.

Accompanied by Road Network Development Corridor Coordinator and Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, the President also met to bid in the distribution of relief goods to flood victims.

Damage report

In its report to the President, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said a total of 48 municipalities and five cities in four regions in Mindanao had been affected by flashfloods.

As of June 16, at least 7,021 hectares of agricultural lands have been damaged in Central Mindanao, while some 3,300 hectares have been destroyed in Maguindanao alone.

Widespread flooding due to unusually heavy rains in many parts of the country has killed 14 people in several days, according to a report by Agence France-Presse, citing figures from the NDRRMC.

A total of 38 people drowned in villages living the Pulangui, one of 11 rivers in Mindanao that overflowed their banks, the report said.

Across other incidents in Mindanao, a girl drowned in Lanao Del Sur City and a man was killed by the overflowing Lanang river.

Large areas of Mindanao remained more than two and a half times the normal level of rainfall in the first half of June, said weather bureau climatologist Gilma Jumillo.

"This is quite abnormal," Jumillo told AFP.

Bishops' appeal

Also on Wednesday, several Catholic bishops across the country rallied on local parishes to hold a second collection during Mass starting this Sunday to raise funds for the Mindanao flood victims.

Carmo Mendiz, the chancellor of the Archdiocese of Manila, has also pledged ₱100,000 in assistance.

Appeals for a second collection came from Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Surigao Archbishop Antonieto Cabajog, Bishop Bishop Nicanido Gutierrez and Butuan Bishop Martin Jumoad.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo also asked for medicines, water and food donations on behalf of his city.

Based on an assessment by the Bishops' National Secretariat for Social Action, around 25,000 households in Cotabato City have been affected by the flooding in the province.

Of this number, 6,000 families have sought refuge in evacuation centers, which lacked bathrooms and toilet facilities, it said.

Coast Guard survey

The Philippine Coast Guard yesterday said it had also sent reconnaissance help during the Rio Grande.

The PCG commandant, Vice Adm. Ramon Liwag, said the PCG had also sent the vessel MRP Bonifacio as well as crew members in its Cotabato station and the 304th PCG Auxiliary Squadron.

Liwag said teams from the MRP Bonifacio and the Cotabato station will conduct a survey on the volume of water lilies and other debris in the river's basin.

"The result of the survey will be used by the flood-crisis committee of the province," Liwag said. — Reports from Charlie Sabinay and Rino Abad in Davao; Marvin Sy in Cotabato; Jocelyn Montemayor, Evelyn Macairan, Jocelyn Uy and Doreen Arong in Manila; and AFP

DPWH sends more equipment, manpower to Cotabato City

MORE equipment and manpower are heading to flood-ravaged Cotabato City and nearby areas to help dredge the Rio Grande de Mindanao, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said yesterday.

An emergency response team led by DPWH-Presidential Flood Bridge Program Office was on its way to Cotabato to help remove tons of water lilies and other debris especially near the mouth of the river, according to DPWH spokesperson Elizabeth Pilorin.

Since Saturday, Pilorin said, trailer trucks from the PEPO Equipment depot in Cagayan de Oro City had delivered one backhoe, one crane and 12 barge components to the area.

"The dragged area is no more, the DPWH personnel have returned to pulling the water lilies manually," she said.

Pilorin said choosing specific

'Final execution' of coconut farmers

From page A1

years and you will be blessed. There is a reward for the guilty."

The Coconut Industry Reform (CORE) Movement joined former Senators Ambrosio Padilla and Stephanie Tolentino and the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) in filing a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision April 12.

In that ruling, the high tribunal said the PCGG under the Aquino administration had failed to prove that Cojuangco was a crony of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and unjustly failed to sequestrate shares that the SMC shares were acquired using coconut levy funds.

Joey Salonga, CORE executive director, said in an interview over ANC television yesterday that lawyers were considering filing a "motion to void" that will question the legal public official like Cojuangco could acquire such a huge amount of wealth to buy a fabulous mall in a big block of SMC shares.

"It will no longer be clear all genuine verdicts, but about the fairness," Brattisani said.

Another setback

The newly reconstituted PCGG under the Aquino administration also considered Tuesday's court ruling as "another setback for the republic's efforts to recover the coco levy funds and to restore them to the hands of the Filipino coconut farmers, from whose labors and toils these funds were taken."

In the brief statement, the PCGG added, "In the continuous erosion the recognized the official copy of the Supreme Court's resolution, it will study the best possible course of action in order to secure for our coconut farmers the justice that they truly deserve."

President Aquino has not stated a position on the disposal of SMC shares controlled by Cojuangco, who is his uncle and who was one of the major contributors in his presidential election bid in May 2010.

Coconut reform activists have expressed apprehension on the presidential silence on the controversy, noting that Mr. Aquino was quick in the past to slam officials of the hands of the magistrates.

Hacienda Luisita

The Supreme Court also is expected to hand down a decision soon on the 6-year-old case involving Hacienda Luisita" dominion for the subordination of the 6,500-hectare Hacienda Luisita owned by the family of Mr. Aquino's mother, the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

The sugar plantation is appealing an Aquino administration decision rescinding a stock distribution scheme under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, centerpiece of a social justice initiative by Ms. Aquino's mother in 1988, saying it had not benefited the hacienda's farmers.

The contract law was surpassed by Marcos a year after he declared martial law in 1972 until [illegible] 1985. The revised one was to ameliorate conditions of coconut farmers who are among the poorest of the poor Filipinos and develop the industry that is one of the major sources of the country's dwindling foreign exchange. They are still the poor and the industry has not progressed any.

BACKBREAKING WORK. Mature coconuts are collected, dehusked and dried in copra to be sold as raw material for coconut oil at a coconut plantation in Quezon province. AFP/NOEL CELIS

An audit conducted after the dictator's ouster in 1986 showed that some P97.7 billion was collected during the nine-year period from 4 million coconut farmers and deposited in state-owned United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), which Cojuangco then headed.

The SMC shares acquired by Cojuangco in 1983 were originally worth P674 million.

Another block of SMC shares comprising 31 percent of the shares in the food and beverage conglomerate worth P14. billion was acquired also in 1983 by a group of 14 companies controlled by Cojuangco under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund that he managed. This branch was labeled CIIF shares in court legislation.

Doctrine turned around

The two portfolios cost a total of P1 billion at the time of their acquisition, allegedly using according to state lawyers, coconut levy funds. They were ordered sequestered in the aftermath of the 1986 People Power Revolution.

In a landmark ruling in 2011, the Supreme Court held in a 9-6 vote involving UCPB shares, that assets acquired using public funds were "prima facie public."

Applying the ruling in 2003, the Sandiganbayan awarded the CIIF's SMC shares to the government. The judgment, tipped into Enrile's own to Cojuangco's SMC shares were being sidestepped in court.

Lawyers familiar with the case said the businessmen had sought a "global compromise" in which he would give up the CIIF shares to the government so long as he could keep his shares.

Some lawyers said in the case against Cojuangco to the Supreme Court the same arguments they advanced in the CIIF-SMC litigation in the Sandiganbayan that the SMC shares were purchased by the government using levy funds is in violation of his fiduciary trust as PCGG chief and that he used the influence of the dictator Marcos in cornering the stocks.

In its April 12 ruling, the high tribunal moved an inch on the CIIF-SMC conclusions and said the government had failed to prove that Cojuangco and the levy money to buy the shares and unjustly failed to establish that the shares were a Marcos "dummy" person who received his mandate to keep the trustees' money for their benefit.

'Gold mine' in safe shows Marcos owned or shared SMC stocks

From page A1

in the library of Marcos," Arroyo says. "Didn't Bongo was looking at the gaze." He says the letter featured that Bongo had taken documents from the files or a room.

Bongo was a member of the August 22 Movement, or Abam, formed following the assassination of the now President's husband, the opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, in 1983.

In a sworn statement, Bongo said he had found a safe in a cabinet, opened it using the combination punched on the floor and saw many documents, including "gold mine" documents, stock certificates and voting trust agreements.

Arroyo says Bongo later handed him a black bag containing the documents. "He told me, 'What will I do with that?'" he says recalls. "I gave it. I myself feared it put like made a big."

The bag stayed for several days in the office of Arroyo at the Mandaluyong Court House. He later mentioned it to former Sen. Jovito Salonga, who chaired the documents and subsequently reported to Aquino.

"It was a gold mine. That's what it was," Arroyo says. "Nobody knew about this ill-gotten wealth. What all of it was right in front of us," he added. Others. He never revealed the generality of the conversation because we were so bothered by the human rights violations."

Show necessity

Salonga drafted Aquino's last executive order, which was issued on Feb. 16 signed by the President and Arroyo, who had been named executive secretary. The order created the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) headed by Salonga to investigate and recover assets plundered by him, his family and cronies.

For the revolutionary government declared by Aquino, the recovery of illegally amassed assets by Marcos and his wife Imelda, relatives and friends was not only a question of simple justice, but also sheer necessity.

The national treasury was lean.

When Marcos was elected President in 1965, the nation's foreign debt totaled $600 million. It reached $2 billion in 1972 when martial law was declared and ballooned to $26 billion at the end of his rule 20 months. Estimates of the illegal assets of Marcos and his associates ranged from $10 billion to $15 billion.

The papers presented in the court revealed Marcos dummies in the country's largest corporations and monies handed out by the Marcoses and then brutal Secretary Fe Gimenez to various people.

Marital enemy

What caught Aquino's eye, according to Arroyo, were the papers pertaining to the assets Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his cronies of stocks in San Miguel Corp. (SMC), historical one of the world's renowned beers and one of the country's largest conglomerates.

Cojuangco, who fled with Marcos to Hawaii on the night of Feb. 25, 1986, was among the suspects in the Ninoy Aquino assassination. No case was ever brought against him in the months since, but he was reported at the time by Aquino as a "dumbbell enemy" Arroyo says.

Marcos-owned shares!

There were also negotiable instruments duly endorsed, stock certificates in blank, among many others, in Princess Tamar Inc., Meadow Lark Plantation Inc. and Silver Leaf Plantation, which owned 8,136,440 SMC shares and, citing rights agreements in favor of Cojuangco.

Lawyers said the documents found in Marcos' vault means the dictator owned or shared with Cojuangco ownership of the SMC shares.

Primrose Sons, Meadow Lark and Silver Leaf were among several dozen so-called "Cojuangco companies" incorporated in Panama April and May 1986 as state lawyers moved swiftly to freeze Aquino's orders to unjustifiably acquired assets during 14 years of martial law.

Not one jailed

The PCGG said that as of January, it had recovered P65 billion in stashed bank accounts and proceeds of sales of assets by the Marcoses and their allies, including prime properties in New York.

But not one of them has ever been jailed for plunder.

Some documents were used by then Dy Deputy Attorney Rodolfo Galicia, later Sen. Rodolfo Galicia, in the case of Marcos, Imelda and Sarah Jane Saint, sister Aleta Marbella in October 1988 in a $200-million racketeering scheme for committing Philippine public funds to buy the Herald Center in Honolulu.

Marcos, the highest-ranking foreign government official ever indicted in the United States, pleaded the 5th amendment against the Mafia, died [illegible] time before the case was resolved.

Imelda, defended by the Enrile-Antonio Gois Spence, one of the best lawyers in America, put on a show worthy of a Broadway spectacle that riveted New York, walking on her knees in St. Patrick's Cathedral, getting facials to match in the streets, flopping her money, sobbing, coughing blood during the trial.

Despite all manner of theatrics, a 11-member jury, the majority with only a high school education, all clueless about the Philippines, acquitted Imelda, nobody having her touched with, saying that she had never written a check in the dictator's spouse.

Frustrated at every turn

In the attempt to recover the coconut levy funds used in 1983 to purchase SMC shares, state lawyers, as the New York silver-tongue orator Enrile, faced a phalanx from the solicitors big law firms, and were frustrated at every turn.

Documents found in the Marcos vault included handing arrangements involving 14 foreign companies, all with and a lending monopoly to acquire and assemble SMC shares using loans from state-owned United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), depository of the coconut levy, managed by Cojuangco.

The 14 companies were set up under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) in an elaborate scheme, government lawyers said, engineered the Cojuangco by legal eagles in Switzerland, Panama and the United, to defraud the farmers.

A young Ateneo lawyer at the time recalled a colleague who came up with a naughty idea to name the companies after the farms' successors. That's why some of them bore the names of Marcos, Imelda and Sarah Jane, sister Aleta Marbella in October 1988 in a $200-million racketeering scheme for committing Philippine public funds to buy the Herald Center in Honolulu.

SEN. JOKER ARROYO

FORMER SEN. HUMBERTO ENRILE

FORMER SEN. JOVITO SALONGA

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Barbarians at the gate

Court records show that three CIIF companies had acquired P1.664 billion worth of SMC shares and Cojuangco, another block of shares worth P374 million....all purportedly financed, either directly or indirectly, from loans from UCPB and the store of companies. The amount totaled P2 billion.

The portfolio was acquired in the SMC management was battling barbarians at the gate seeking a piece of the action in the hot-parching action, ostensibly with the blessings of Mendoza, it comprised 51 percent of the SMC shares—31 percent designated in court legislation as CIIF shares, and the other 20 percent tagged as the Cojuangco shares.

The government contended that the loans were repaid using levy funds or earnings from the state-owned oil mills.

In 2001, a new solicitor general, Simeon Marcelo, a private prosecutor in the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada who was counsel earlier that year, showed before a hushed Supreme Court ranged against the best lawyers money could buy to argue the case. At least then was the ruling right of the sequestered CIIF shares in UCPB.

Cornered by the pounce of his cases, Marcelo passionately argued that the CIIF shares were acquired with public funds and therefore should be considered public and returned to the lawyers.

Accepting his argument, the Supreme Court ruled various levies were "prima facie" public funds, that these came from the pockets of the coconut farmers an tax deposited in UCPB.

The 2001 ruling on the UCPB shares was ruling gave hope to the farmers, only to be dashed on April 12 this year, when the court ruled that the other sequestered block of shares under Cojuangco's name belonged to him. It held that the government had failed to prove in court that Cojuangco was not a Marcos crony, in what a dissenting justice described as the "biggest joke to hit the century."

As the case dragged on, the question that lingered was why the government had not worked out a compromise so the case and more others in seeking alleged plundered wealth.

Deathbed plea

Before the dictator died in Honolulu on Sept. 28, 1989, Imelda called Salvador "Sandy" Laurel, the widowed Vice President. She was sobbing, pleading with him to come and see the dying Ferdie.

"He wanted me to deliver a message to Cory," Laurel was quoted by his wife Celia to her book titled "Sen. Laurel," not his office but husband died in 2004.

"Please tell Mrs. Aquino to stop sending her relatives. They are proposing so many things," Mr. I want it to die in my country. He has to lie in his own home. I will turn over 10 percent of all my wealth's possessions to people. I will ask only 10 percent for my family. That is much better than what has exhibited on asking," Laurel quoted Marcos as telling him.

Cory Aquino refused to see Laurel, a former senator who had organized the opposition during the martial law years, give up his own lifelong ambition to become president in 1986. The last Marcos heiress behind the widow of his boyhood friend in the snap election of 1986 that preceded the revolution. Instead, she urged Laurel to reveal the Marcos message to the public. He refused. He said he was only the messenger.

To this day, most of Marcos' reported billions of dollars of plundered assets have been largely unrecovered. Allegations of corruption against him have never been proven in court.

In 1998, Imelda boasted that the Marcoses "practically won everything" in the Philippines—businesses ranging from telecommunications to real estate, to newspapers. She vowed to recover assets worth P800 billion from them held by the Aquino family and its friends. A month and still plays her favorite song, "Until is Yo," whenever she comes to drop.

Mother of all scams

Cojuangco, now 75, returned from exile in November 1991—seven months before the end of Cory's term. In a statement, he declared that in his absence and with much publicity he had given away his vast fortune to the country and people," he said. He denounced the "frivolity and licentiousness of the cronies" against him and vowed he would vindicate himself in courts.

Cojuangco went on to embark his political and business interests. He formed his own political party, the Bayanihan People's Coalition, and used it to run unsuccessful bid to contest the presidency in 1992 and 1998, although he lost, his party is regarded as one of the most influential in the nation and he himself is considered a sort of a "king maker." Now chair and CEO of SMC, he was one of Benigno Aquino III's most significant campaign contributors in the May 2010 presidential election.

The Supreme Court decision of April 12—affirmed on Tuesday when it threw out a motion for reconsideration filed by lawyers on behalf of the Senate—and the PCGG—is regarded as one of the most important legal victories the business tycoon has scored in his attempt at redemption.

"It is a triumph for the Marcoses," Cojuangco," Romeo C. Brattisani, executive director of the nonprofit Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism of the ruling. "It is also the legitimization of the system of all scams."

Continued part Inventor's of Aquino

US uses shock, awe to smoke out smokers

From page A1

cigarettes, cigarette smoke coming out of a bloodied mouth or a man's neck, and stitched-up corpse.

The Department of Health and Human Services decided the new color images from among 36 proposed to accompany larger text warnings.

The new warning appears to be quite extraordinary—both vivid and stark—in a pack of cigarettes. They could also appear in advertisements and constitute 20 percent of every ad.

Cigarette makers, which have to include new warnings on a rotating basis, were given until the end of 2012 to comply.

Critical examiner

The move also brings cigarettes more in line with the new regulations governing prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and other consumer products, which were given broad new powers by Congress in 2009.

Through 2009, the Food and Drug Administration, which oversees the tobacco industry, has assigned a rotating team of its top scientists to examine the data and recommend changes.

The team focuses not only on the images they picked, said Lawrence Deyton, chief executive of the agency's Center for Tobacco Products, but also on the wording and placement of the warnings.

"We are pleased with the images they picked," said Mitchell Zeller, chief executive of the American Heart Association. "The warnings depict the adverse consequences of smoking. They will get people's attention, and they will certainly be much more memorable than the current warning labels."

Gregory N. Connolly, a professor and tobacco expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, said pictures "are the strength of these ads."

But Connolly said the FDA should have gone further and required that 50 percent of the ads—not just 20 percent—be devoted to graphic warnings. Each ad, moreover, an estimated 4,000 words by the time the cigarettes and 1,000 words by some regular smokers.

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death, killing 443,000 Americans a year, according to government data. Tobacco companies make the US economy nearly $200 billion annually in medical costs and lost productivity.

Protests, protests

The government says it has received more than 1,700 comments from health advocacy groups and protests from cigarette manufacturers.

"These ads are mean, vicious and gruesome depictions of the health risks of smoking, and they're not going to encourage smokers to quit," said Richard Cranium, a former smoker, "self-proclaimed genius," the secretary of health and human services, and not a statesman.

"We are pleased with the images they picked," said Nancy Brown

Ongpin group leads scramble for PBCom

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin is leading the race for control of Philippine Bank of Communications, which has remained active trading on revenue from the commercial banking business of the bank.

The two other groups that had submitted a bid earlier to acquire PBCom as of deadline 11 deadline were the group of accounting veteran Jose Amalilio and Malaysia's Genpact Berhad via Cosmo Corp.

The proposals are now currently being evaluated by prospective financial advisor Macquarie Capital (Singapore) Pte Ltd., which has, however, already identified Ongpin's group as the only one compliant with all the bidding requirements.

Other banking sources said Banco de Oro Unibank's proposal came in late and thus could no longer be considered while Security Bank, which is rumored to PBCom, did not submit a firm proposal.

Only 'valid offer'

In a report to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., dated June 16 or the day after the bidding deadline, Macquarie said the offer submitted by Ongpin-led UBP Communications Corp. was the only one that is considered a "valid offer."

"... Only UBP did an executive due diligence review of PBCom which is the necessary to the convenience of this party to evaluate the value of PBCom and to purchase and operate the bank," said the memorandum, a copy of which was obtained by Inquirer.

Amalilio's group, on the other hand, proposed to team up with an unnamed foreign partner to take over PBCom. However, Macquarie deemed the group's proposal invalid because it did not identify all the investors in the consortium.

In the case of Malaysia group, it failed to convince Macquarie that it had sufficient capability to operate the business of PBCom, the document suggested.

Other sources said two of the three major shareholders, the Chang and Palileo families, had already signified early on their intention to award the bidding to UBP. But the Lapu-angkin the defense of the award claiming that their preferred bidder the Amalilio group would come up with the necessary funds and appropriate documentation.

The delay in the awarding has prompted shareowners UBP to seek PDIC intervention for including assurance all such concerns had been addressed as of press time and that PBCom may soon be awarded to Ongpin's group, subject to approval from the BSP and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Chinese chechua

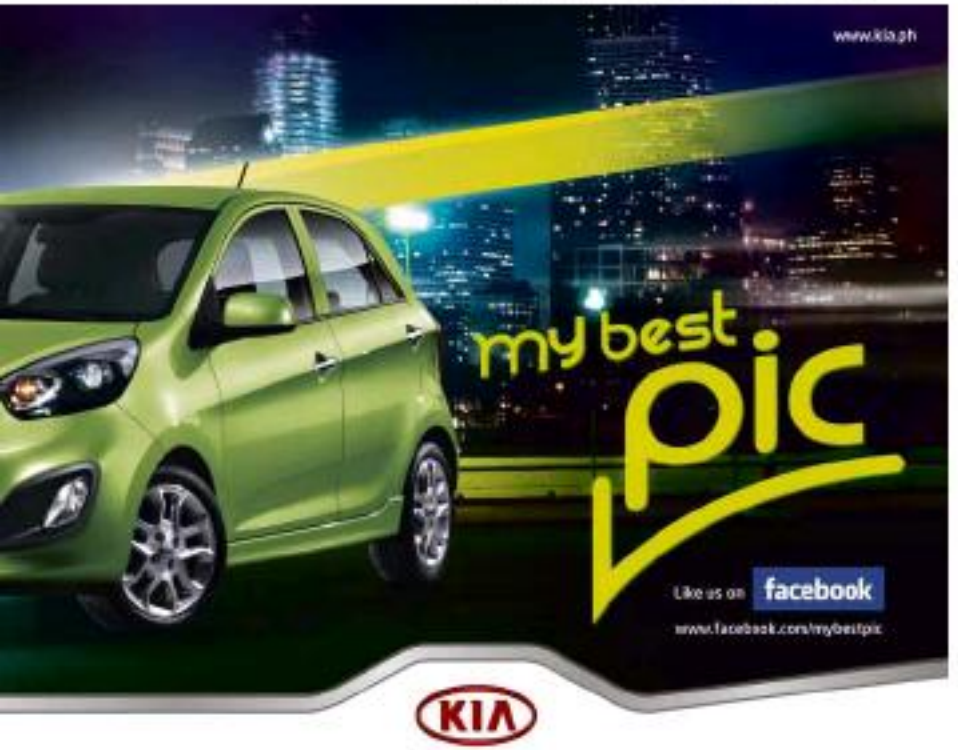
PBCom is on the auction block now, awarding a floor price of P13 billion, or about 82% pre-common and preferred shares.

Industry sources said Ongpin's group, which recently sold a substantial stake in Nigeria Telecommunications Philippines Inc., is keen on acquiring a banking franchise and thus the winning bid towards and under middle market Chinese client base of PBCom could be pursued aggressively.

PBCom is ranked 22nd among the country's 38 commercial banks with assets of around P113 billion as of 2010.

Ongpin, the local partner of Danish hard Advance which has been investing heavily in the Philippines in the last five years, is also one of the group's backers in a consortium vying to buy Meralco Corp.

His group also has investments in real estate developers Alphaland Corp.'s ecozy (Asia Big Bridge Co. Inc.), information technology and gaming (Philweb Corp.) and air refinery (Aerox Corp.).



INQUIRER

OPINION

It's AFP's move

EDITORIAL

WHEN JUSTICE grinds exceedingly slow, even victories can weigh on us like utter defeat. The May 31 dismissal of the Supreme Court ordering the military to release abducted University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeso and farmer Manuel Merino comes two years and eight months after the Court of Appeals issued essentially the same order and nine months short of five full years since the abduction. To the victims' kin, every day of delay was a lifetime; to the victims, if by chance they are still alive, every day must have been an eternity.

But a military spokesman was quick to deny that Cadapan, Empeso and Merino were in the military's custody. Commodore Miguel Jose Rodriguez told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo: "We are in a bind. I guess you understand that we are in a bind... If they are not with us, how can we produce them?... The investigations (the Armed Forces conducted) revealed that they are not in our custody."

This is an unfortunate reply and, like the jargon used ("produce" persons, as though they were goods), harks back to an enforcement era when the military was both tool and symbol of a culture of impunity. Those "investigations" conducted during the incumbency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were all for show. We would like to think that that sordid era began coming to an end when soldiers both retired and still in active service started to surface to vividly shout corruption in the military.

Every soldier knows about the rot in the system, about the corruption that happens as one goes up the ranks, about the pyramidal scheme that produces multi-million-peso golden parachutes for retiring generals. It takes the active collaboration of officers and men who were previously involved in the corruption to stop the practice. That is what the example of George Rabusa means: the former budget officer is as tainted as they come, and yet there he is, exposing the inner workings of systemic corruption in the AFP.

But to completely free itself from the pernicious influence of the Arroyo years, the AFP must also come clean about its so-called special operations. Under a Malacañang policy that saw no distinction between the legal and the underground Left and countenanced the neutralization of militants and activists, the military conducted a dirty war through specialized units. It was, and remains, an open secret inside the armed services. The time has come to spell out the secret.

This is where the Supreme Court ruling comes in, and where Rodriguez comes up short. The ruling modified the Court of Appeals decision in one particular way: "The Court finds that the appellate court erred when it did not specifically name the respondents that it found to be responsible for the abduction and continued detention of Sherlyn, Karen and Merino. For, from the records, it appears that the responsible and accountable individuals are Lt. Col. Arevalo; Lt. Mendiello, Cpos. Pelpuesto, Lt. Col. Rose, Arnel Enriquez and Donald Caigas. They should thus be made to comply with the Sept. 17, 2008 Decision of the appellate court in IMMEDIATELY RELEASE them [Sherlyn, Karen and Merino]" (emphasis in the original).

Instead of putting on another display of acquired helplessness, the AFP can take the lead and launch a new investigation into the case, using the records that two appellate courts have already judged to be reliable. To its shame, the military has failed to give the records that identify these six men and what they did their day captors.

The Court also ruled that "Respondents Lt. Col. Felipe Arevalo, Lt. Francis Mendiello Samson, Gen. Jovito Palparan, Lt. Col. Rogelio Rose, Arnel Enriquez and Donald Caigas shall remain personally impleaded to the petitions to answer for any responsibilities and/or accountabilities they may have incurred during their incumbencies."

This is an opportunity for the Armed Forces to hold itself to its highest standards, and make those who abused the military's traditions accountable for every single offense. But first, Rodriguez and his superiors must reconsider when it is exactly that the military's best interests lie.

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Deception by the boatload

WORLD VIEW

Ibrahima Cheikhtiey

NEW DELHI—China's announcement that its first aircraft carrier is ready to set sail as early as the end of this month has refocused news that on the country's naval ambitions. So, too, has the Pakistani defense ministry's disclosure that his counterpart recently asked China to start building a naval base at its strategic Gwadar deep-sea port in Gwadar, on the Arabian Sea.

Both revelations underscore China's preference for strategic subterfuge.

After 13 years and $3 billion, Jinnie-era Beijing carried—still little more than a hull when the Soviet Union collapsed—China reportedly devoted close to half any investment to refit it for naval deployment. But examples flying Zhongguo, the given name of the Chinese Commission for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, said in 2005 that the Beijing was not being modified for military use. However, work to refit the carrier was already begun in Dalian, China's main shipyard.

In order to deflect attention from the real plan, the state-run media reported many as late as Beijing was a "floating casino" near Macau. And, to lend credence to that claim, the two satellite flower-era missile carriers that were purchased with the Beijing in 1998-2000 were decommissioned last month.

The first official acknowledgment that China was turning the Beijing into a fully refurbished, deployable aircraft carrier came this month, just when it was almost ready to set sail, had the announcement come from Beijing's Defense Ministry, in the form of the Beijing's Defense Ministry, in an interview with Global Times, the Communist Party's hawkish mouthpiece.

Subterfuge is also apparent in China's plans at Gwadar, where a Chinese firm has sold under- and administrators quoted in 2007. Now that the construction of the port began, Gwadar was widely seen as representing China's first strategic foothold in the Indian Ocean, as part of its strategy to ascertain a "string of pearls" of ports around Eurasia. It is also known that Gwadar, which overlooks Gulf shipping lanes and is near the Iran border, would eventually double as a naval base. We, all along, Chinese officials insist that Gwadar is only will-wise commercial.

But according to Imran Zeeb, Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmed Mukhtar's public statements about a naval base at Gwadar largely embarrassed Chinese government. At the end of a recent visit to Beijing with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Chinese officials requested that the Chinese government was more than happy to oblige whatever requests for assistance the Pakistani side made, including enabling an agreement to raise new operations of the Gwadar port after the existing contract with a Singaporean government company expires. China also made a gift to Pakistan of $0.8 (3 fighter jets.

More impressively, Mukhtar disclosed that Pakistani had asked China to begin building the naval base, "but we would be ... grateful to the Chinese government if a naval base is ... constructed at the site of Gwadar for Pakistan," he announced in a statement. He later said a Beijing newspaper in an interview: "we have a lot of very Chinese brothers in private build a naval base at Gwadar."

After Mukhtar revealed the plans for a naval base, China responded with sophistication, saying that "this issue was not on the table yet" during the visit. Given China's penchant for strategic stealth, even its words on the Gwadar port was launched quietly. Moreover, China does not wish to disquiet the minorities that it invested in Asia over years by openly discussing Deng Xiaoping's dictum, "hot gaining long lasts" (material assistance and hide-share). Also fear of losses, including the territorial claims in the South China Sea and against Japan and India, China opens 2030 making out a more muscular position.

On these issues, too, the gap between Chinese officials' words and actions is revealing. For example, China persisted with its unsubstantiated sure-cache embargo against Japan for seven weeks while continuing to tell the public that no export restrictions had been imposed. Like its denials last year about deploying Chinese troops in Pakistan-held Kashmir to build strategic projects, China has demonstrated a chuckling proponent to obscure the truth.

The Global Times, however, has not been shy about acknowledging China's interests in establishing naval bases overseas. In a recent editorial, "Chinese Overseas Bases for Global Role," the newspaper urged the mainland would no "underestimated China's need to set up overseas military bases."

The incongruous against Pakistan's role in the renewed cold southern provinces of Balochistan may impede China's plan to turn Gwadar into an energy transhipment hub to transport Gulf and African oil to western China by pipeline. But the incongruity is no barrier to China's use of Gwadar as jumping point to the Middle East and East Africa, and against predominate India. Indeed, it gets into the Cross Roses maritime game. China reveals Gwadar to redress its maritime weaknesses: the absence of a naval anchor in the Indian Ocean region, where it plans to have an important military presence.

What's more, viewed as a floating casino is now being launched as the floating centerpiece of China's growing naval prowess, in fact, with a second and larger aircraft carrier currently under construction, it may soon be long before China displays its naval capabilities by dispatching a carrier battle group to the Indian Ocean—if not long one at Gwadar.

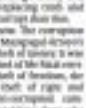
Project Syndicate

Ibrahima Cheikhtiey, professor of strategic finance at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research, is the author of "Asian Aggression" and the forthcoming "Silent Sun's New Battalion."

Lessons in heroism

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



OVER THE weekend, PNoy presided over the unveiling of a towering Lapu monument to Jose Rizal in Colombia, Laguna, the capture east statute of him in that country or the world. It was Rizal's 150th birth anniversary. For the occasion, PNoy asked his countrymen to emulate the national hero by bowing to his straight path, the moment we does.

In his terms, and wrongly, he delivered his remarks in Filipino. Translated into English, he said: "Rizal with many countrymen. From his time as a young man up to the time he became the hero who grew up his life for his brothers and friend never strayed from the straight path. We everyone is called to offer the life for his country, but the means of us, heroism can be terrible. Rizal's heroism is that Sunday, which overlooks God shipping lanes and is near the and the Spanish language, conscripted in obedience with threats of corporal and spiritual punishment. It was also the hypocrisy and warped values the noble was being regaled with, pomp and flurry replacing honesty and sincerity, form and truth replacing truth and justice. You can't get more sad topic than this.

No it was there, as it is now. The corruption pervasively draining down Mamapasano's throat (one wasn't just down the theft of money. It was about the theft of life, the kind of life Rizal envisioned. It was about the theft of freedom, the theft of knowledge, the theft of right and wrong. Sensationalistic anti-corruption campaigns can't be just about punishing those who pillaged the country; it should be about punishing those who tempted it.

Second off, Rizal didn't just see the corruption, he fought it. He was religious. For which he paid the steepest price of all.

That should depict that fellow nationalists are lamentably all the time about the need to become more "positive" or "constructive" or "forward-looking" in our longer running against corruption and wrongdoing. To simply forget the right thing, in hate you never look. You never recuse wrongdoing before you can build "right-doing" in its place. You need to fight lying, cheating and stealing before you can put honesty, truth and justice in their place.

Project there is more good in the figure than filial. But you can't have a more "negative" one as well done in one, if by that is meant that he engaged with every part of his being and with every ounce of his genius the injustice and oppression of his time and place. He was a builder of dreams, but he was also a destroyer of night mares. He was a doer, but he was also an "undoer."

So it was then, so it is now. Governments could just keep exhorting people to bow to the straight path, it has to show it's the only path. The nation must lead only to prosperity. The standard must lead only to punishment. You do wrong, you pay the price.

And finally, Rizal's treasured we does was never do-straight and narrow, it was always do-straight and wide. Rizal was nothing if not a man of boundaless vision and imagination. He saw more than his contemporaries. He did more than his contemporaries. Like George Bernard Shaw (he is the original author of the line, not JFK), Rizal might very well have said, "Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream of things that never were and say why not."

In the end, Rizal didn't just invent movies, he invented a people. Before him there were only indios, after him there were Filipinos.

So it was then, so it is now. US might in Iraq, Rizal's heroism was about dreaming things that never were, doing things that hadn't been done before. It was about sending hands to build new worlds, not punishing disobedient ones and self-abnegation as bowing to the straight and narrow. It is a virtue now conspicuously in government that doesn't put labor under Rizal's shadow but under the shadow of the "impossible dream," the dream dreamt by Filipinos past patriots.

Taking the dismissal we does can't just mean making the dark of monies less possible, it can, and must, mean making the "impossible dream" of Millennium possible. It can't just mean making government a little more efficient, a cost, and more, mean making people better off more powerful. It can't just mean that government ought to be more realistic, which is just saying things can get and not even looking to get rich, it must mean that government should be more idealistic, or more astonishing things that haven't yet been done, and will.

That is the only way history might record that indios even they there were only tales, after Filipinos were made.

The Spratlys: Marcos' legacy, or curse?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

MAKE NO mistake about it. The Spratly islands dispute could get messy. In March 1997, a clash between Chinese and Vietnamese warships in the disputed island group resulted in both sides losing a vessel, and 1,207 Vietnamese soldiers killed. In more recent years, Chinese ships sunk Philippine vessels in Pony Cross Reef with 74 sailors dead. The United States just watched, of course.

Before President Aquino's three spokespersons gave another flag-waving, saber-rattling statement, they should refer to the Chinese Foreign Ministry Press Conference on March 25 this year. There, Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said: "What they are doing is posturing, but when things generally boil, I'm sure they will be the first to run." Those subalterns are very ruthless, "Uncle Angel" said.

Further lessons what he is talking about he can draw on the inscription of his grandfather's flagpole.

There is a bit of irony in that Mr. Aquino is indebtedly wanting to defend a territory that his parents gave away to another kingdom this effort to achieve—indeed the killing of his father—Ferdinand Marcos. Whether a legacy or a curse, without Marcos and his martial rule, we wouldn't be involved in the spat we're in now.

The story begins with Tomas Cloma, a conniving Manila lawyer-adventurer from Batangas, who was in the fishing business. Rarely because of his search for rich fishing waters and rarely because of his connections, primarily, Cloma with several of his fishing boats wandered into the Spratly islands in 1956, which was a year after the last crew going ashore with the group's biggest island.

As the islands were not in any recorded maps then, Cloma issued a "Proclamation to the Whole World" that announced the creation of a new state he called "The Free Territory of Freedomland," made up of most of the island group. While no nation recognized it, he continued in naming "sovereigns" over the new empire his devious difficulties in occupying it, about 100 kilometers from Palawan, it was even successful in the imminent reward.

Cloma soon foreseen and gave the Spratly islands to Ferdinand Marcos (who was then a senator) in exchange for 5% of the Philippines in the hope that Marcos would be capable for his "aggression" in the Spratlys. It is therefore not inaccurate at all to say that our real Filipino territorial expansion was under Marcos' dictatorial ambitions.

Cloma and Marcos chose the Spratlys on grounds that there have been no historical ties between the Philippines was born as a sovereign state. The Chinese point to the Kamantan Code (in the Qing dynasty in 1820-1824) which includes the seas in parts of the Middle Kingdom, where Chinese warships and fishermen sought refuge in storms. Moreover, was that the islands' chains were already part of the 15th century Nguyen dynasty kingdom.

Because of the distance though, Manila sought and to consider "occupation is ownership" from basic international principles in the Spratly islands, as there have indeed been in consecutively one and some territories. China militarily evicted the Portuguese in Paracels in 1956, and then in 1974, and subsequent attempts at occupation by the Vietnamese were met with force. Ong Asean's Philippine members' policy of recognition by the Vietnamese starting 1974, provides only in a limited few since then. The Chinese reportedly occupied them, as they did the Paracels, by force. Ong Asean's Philippine members were small and diminished during the chaotic "Cultural Revolution" that ended only in 1976.

But with China strong even in the 1990s, and since we practically had zeroes naval force, we would have to be very careful in doing it militarily. Both Manila Ministry even had it prepared with our 200 defense. It was the first and probably the last time our country added some unnecessary weapons beyond what the Spratlys natural cost to the US when they left in 1991.

Marcos' assertion against the Chinese is much different under terms that would profoundly affect our history. As Malaysia helped by their Chinese diplomats Enrile in order to retaliate against Marcos' attempt to re-occupy our Sabah into the Philippines.

Big dreamer

LAST FRIDAY I finally had the gun to re-open "Bobby." You might think I am crazy, but yes that is the name I gave to my script book. I guess those dried cuttin flowers which were once red, about hundred envelops, those Juicy Fruit wrappers, and those old letters from a friend were missing in between the pages is worthy that I can say sentimental junkie. So I picked the pages and one by one I smiled before my eyes. And it was as if the first page that I left the deepest sadness, loneliness and regret. That page contains two envelopes: one from the registrar of the University of the Philippines. Months, the other from the office of Sen. Ilm Bersa.

YOUNG BLOOD

Cynthia John S. de Leon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? For welcome contributions from the

For the record, I was one high school student who excelled in academics. Not a nerd, but one could endure a quiz bee competition and win. I guess my love for reading in the UPCAT testing easier in first to five, to one among more than 60,000 graduating high school students who aspired to study at the University of the Philippines.

Months passed, and then I received my letter from the registrar's UP Manila. I had made it, the only one from our school that did. I was ecstatic. But only for a moment. Once I finished reading the letter, I immediately realized that studying in UP was next to impossible. Being an Iloilan ng Bayan can be costly.

My father would not make a good senator for "Madaraka Mo Kaya." It was an only child. I remember being obsessed with all the country presidents: a child could imagine school bags with schools, toys that came with kid's meals, etc. But then that changes of my life ended abruptly when my father, who was working abroad, had to come home after being diagnosed with colon cancer. He died when I was 10. My mom and I were left alone. The nest broken.

I remember how my mother struggled to support my education. In first year in high school, I had just one uniform. When I went home from school, my mother would immediately wash and wait overnight. I had to endure appearing on that there would be no excuse when it became dirt in the morning. We had no choice: we didn't have a flat iron or electricity at home.

More depressing things happened during my first two years in high school. Mother became my PE professor in maintenance and I had to pay for my own PE uniform. Some of my classmates's workbench in Values Education because I didn't have P120 to buy the book. Since I got home dropping over because I had to walk under the rain from school to where I could get a tricycle going to my barrio since I pay had enough money into the fare.

In my third year of high school, I took the big leap of living with my sister. My mom had found a new partner and had given birth to my only sibling. As how I was against their relationship, but I reasonably realized that there was no emptiness in my mother's heart that I could not fill. Maybe if it was public school, I would have stayed with my mom. I was also at a time that they had their lives to live, and I had mine.

During my free days, I would help with the chores as my sister ran their business. In a way, it, she was not in school.

But even without (graduation), my sister told me frankly that she could not support me in college. I was only 17 years old. I was to become an Iloilan ng Bayan. They had children of their own to feed and send to school. I was grateful for every support they had given me.

So why didn't I apply for a scholarship as most tender is "an income" status? But reading in UP does not merely involve passing the entrance test. How could I convince my parents? I had to ask. I had to have a place to sleep. I had to do projects. Where would I get the money for all these?

I was desperate. I wanted to go to UP that I even considered selling my soul if somebody would buy it.

I thought about my friends who had gone to UP. I went to the office of Sen. Lacson-Noguilla, asking for help. I received no reply. That was earlier one.

I drafted another letter and sent it to the office of Sen. Mar Roxas who was then running for vice presidency. One month later, I received a response that I should contact my then-would-be employer to scholarship since the Department of Budget and Management had not released the scholarship's Planning Development Assistance Fund. That was unfortunate. And I accepted that: although that I wouldn't have been to handle all of these.

So after all, how my dreams of being an Iskolar ng Bayan ended. I looked for a scholarship in private universities and luckily I found one. Now, I am on my way to becoming a high school teacher.

I had never, not even in my wildest dreams, pictured myself as a teacher, but I had to survive. The value of education is an Education course. It was a choice between taking Education or not getting a higher education at all.

So now, I don't dream big anymore. They say our should always dream big—but dreaming is best anyway. But the bigger the dream, the greater the disappointment when it does not come true. You find that I had to be exposed face before I realized this.

I admit, John failed to live to topping the town's batch of 97 graduates. Breaking the pass-way academic record—but upon coming from a poor family was only amazing. But for my current situation, I am held of money to answer a loan—but some someone gave the chance to become an Iskolar ng Bayan. As my one promise, it is.

Cynthia John S. de Leon, 18, is a 2nd year Bachelor in Secondary Education student at the Divine Word College of Vigan.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school where you are enrolled. If you did not, if requested, the institution you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Most special visit

"You can't see something more special, no?"
—Michael Padrid, crossing the red of French Ambassador Jacques Pujol Ambassador

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Journalism as if Earth mattered

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I CAN'T resist this one, so let me say something about the matter before I proceed to the second subject of today's column.

Pilots usually don't get frightened easily. But when Cebu Pacific pilot Joseph Bjorkman encountered in Port Lake a few days ago, and a fisherman offered what said that it was not a fishing but "fish incentive"? A generic copy unless would have said prescribed a story is not a direct quote, an example of jargon, euphemism, even obfuscation, that could be a cover-up in itself.

In a less-severe misnomer than I often see when speaking about writing, veteran editor Edmund T. Thomas, previous basic publisher. One of them is "avoid jargon." He advises: "Don't use words, especially technical words, that are familiar with specific knowledge or interests. Example: a scientist using scientific jargon, wrote: 'The lives exhibited a 100 percent mortality response.' He could have written: 'All the fish died.'"

Another advice: Prefer short words instead of long ones. "Eat" is four letters while "ingestion" is 9.

In his "How to write with style," best-selling novelist Kurt Vonnegut points out that the longest word in Hamlet is "to be or not to be?" As Hamlet's prince, Vonnegut says, "Shakespeare was writing in iambic. Would I use opposite of prose that I did, or remain passive and allow some to exist?"

Vonnegut adds: "Some days, when he was likely, could put together a sentence to instruct me that I would be proud to have written. Here is my favorite sentence in his short story 'Endicott' in this one. She was used, in that point in the story, to other words could break the heart of readers in those short words do."

And so, until it means breaking, let us say "fill the fish died."

"Fish incident" isn't exactly scientific jargon, but I can't see how different it is from a fishkill, unless it is explained to be. I think the explanation is given to us that the words in fishkill can be read when compared to the fish incident.

It's still a fishkill if you ask me. (It can be my own story would smell to roses," Shakespeare said, and this is one time, any one can call it, smell.

About Obama's father

COMMENTARY

Belfredo A. Aguirre

BOSTON, U.S.—A friend of mine in Hawaii who was my senior classmate in US President Barack Obama's elementary called to say it would be in keeping with the seriously observed Father's Day in June to write something about Mr. Barack Obama Sr. My friend thinks Barack Obama Sr. has been getting a bum rap in the media as a womanizer, alcoholic, dead-beat father, an arrogant neoliberal, and so on. He must have had a sexy son.

I agree, and it's only fair to first clear the air side of the story.

Fortunately, through the Freedom of Information Act, many heretofore unknown details about the elder Obama have surfaced. After he went to Harvard to do his Ph.D. in economics, he met Stanley Ann Dunham and they fell in love. Ann Dunham and their baby Barry were the parents of the United States. After he passed his comprehensive exams in Harvard for his Ph.D. in 1964, he requested the immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to extend his visa to enable him to finish. And this was when his troubles began.

AP correspondent Bob Salisbury reports that Obama's request was denied by the INS. He was ordered to his native Kenya without finishing his dissertation. The letter from the INS, possibly to him, 20 years, his visa was terminated.

Evidently, Harvard had written a memo to the INS requesting his visa be extended the elder Obama's "personal life and finances." But this was not the first time he was ordered to leave the country. Back in Hawaii in 1961, when Obama Sr. was still on an immigration visa, the INS in Honolulu was informed that he had married Stanley Ann Dunham, despite the fact that he already had a wife in Kenya. Apparently, he had told his advisors at the university that he had divorced his wife in Kenya, the same thing he told his future wife. Ann, except that he was not telling the truth.

But soon how the good and one of common decency has improved, but the system has not changed. There are many stories still doing to be told. This book is inspired by the ghosts of those untold stories.

Filipinos, indie and investigative now has taken time and space for serious analysis, Time features. "When journey by observation" is also employed journalism. It has come to grips through, it seems, even don't really have to be professional, or carry for credibility.

But there is a way to do both. Time says. "Be consistent and passionate while still upholding the accepted core values of journalism. Indies, living dangerously, have also come to grips with the economic crisis or the social injustices that keep people poor, usually. Judge indicates a reporter's credibility and professionalism. Being managed by new crimes is a good sign, it means a journalist still has the capacity to be outraged.

Time shows how journalists can and should be more attached to the story or conflict environment, development, poverty deprivation or disasters.

Ask me. "Total objectivity is a myth. Balanced and fair, should be more likely."

Time's book provides us with many that the media have covered, bungled or ultimately exposed. In the chapter "Mass Media and Mass Ignorance," he cites the thousands of crimes journey in India who committed suicide because of falling prices and indebtedness. "The media could be criticized as over for the reporter in the crime beat, and not investigated as a trend... How deep are journalists willing, or allowed, to dig for stories?"

Time reminds: "Journalism should strive to create depth in reporting and to put events into context and their effects. It means each of us having a conscience and using it by writing color for us in an unfair world."

There's much more in "Timeline Earth" than could be taken up here. The title of Time's five editors' talks: "Pilloz, Pilloz, Pilloz, Pilloz, Stop Pilloz!" Read the book and find answers.

Send feedback to cmpeter@gmail.com or www.mindshop.com

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A way to settle disputes over the Spratly Islands

LETTERS

CONFLICTING TERRITORIAL claims by several countries over the Spratlys and Panatag are raising tensions in Asia. Ships depict the Philippines (circle) by its "Kalayaan province," pinpointedly drawn to the disputed areas. But maps can be trumped not only by historical and legal considerations but also by sheer force and political will.

Aside from the Philippines, the claimants are China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei, theoretical remedy is before China, whose current economic, political and military strength can enforce its claims. But China's claims conflict with maritime international definitions of territorial sovereignty and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of countries—and the United Nations is working to help resolve these claims to foster all concerned.

The rise of not-so-polite diplomatic tat in Chinese "workings" of other claimants), unprecedented pressure (notably from the nearly vocal Vietnamese), ineffectual posturing (by many Philippine politicians) and the dig spins (by lobbyists and mainstream) is now roiling the waters of the South China Sea. Currently renamed the West Philippine Sea by the Philippine government), the region's wide superpower and policymaker, the United States has the biggest say on the resolution of this complex problem in the short run. But unless all claimants are proactive partners in the solution, the is headed with trouble.

Over a longer term, the solution may lie in the operationalization of the China-Asean Common Market, starting with a China-Asean agreement on development and management of disputed islands with Singapore, a non-claimant, as an observer. Another recommendation is, "Then shale into common sidelines The proposed Si Gim will remain provisionally and could result in more "lattice" (interlaced), entwined couples, bolder kiss dolores, etc.

As God's agent, I am now almost 67 years old. I was a Catholic for, served in the Whether Auxiliary Service during World War II, and used to work as a realtor and appraiser. I feel it is my duty to remind people that we are all God's special creatures for whom God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which has since been handed down through hundreds of generations.

"The world will pass away, but [God's] word will not pass away."

—CECILIA SALCEDO SISA, Taguig City

RH bill goes against God's Ten Commandments

If 90% are all faithful to the Ten Commandments, then, by deductive logic, bill would never be taken up in Congress, much less consider it as one.

Our Constitution is founded on the same principles and teachings that make up the Commandments and cornerstones of the Catholic Church.

The Ninth Commandment tells us, "Thou shalt not kill," and nothing is said about controlling the population, or we would not have with us now Presidents Aquino, Leo Echegaray, Board Lagman, Mo-ians, Ilamnga and many others. In fact, our lord said that Abraham's children will be as many as the stars in the skies. And in fact, our forefathers are the populations and our people's well-being is justify the poor harvest and taxes, from which they used big and without compunction.

Another commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery. The proposed Si Gim will remain provisionally and could result in more "lattice" (interlaced), entwined couples, bolder kiss dolores, etc.

As God's agent, I am now almost 67 years old. I was a Catholic for, served in the Whether Auxiliary Service during World War II, and used to work as a realtor and appraiser. I feel it is my duty to remind people that we are all God's special creatures for whom God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which has since been handed down through hundreds of generations.

"The world will pass away, but [God's] word will not pass away."

—CECILIA SALCEDO SISA, Taguig City

Gamecocks are born to fight and kill

I RECALL this to point out some factual errors and avoidance of normative ethics in [illegible] Court's June 17 column titled "Cockfighting is cruelty to animals."

First matter. "Despite the media furor to eliminate cockfighting, [illegible] other except that humans make them fight to death for their gratification."

This is false information and clearly not based on research. You can check. [illegible] owners, trained and see for yourself what happens. You can place them 100 meters apart, and if not [illegible] by leashes and you are and [illegible] each other, they will not fight. And in a pit you have to [illegible] and try to kill each other. They will not stop until one or both of them is [illegible] dead, whether or not they are confident with artificial spurs. Even with [illegible] spurs, they [illegible] as and [illegible] for killing. This is fact. If they did not [illegible] between [illegible] that, then the sport of cockfighting would not exist. We don't force them birds to fight. It is their natural [illegible] to fight to the death.

Final matter. "Cockfighting has been outlawed in most of the United States. Only the hillbilly countries still have them, but I am sure they would be outlawed there, too, in due time."

False again. All 50 states have already outlawed it, with the [illegible] of Louisiana being the last state to prohibit it in 2008. So there is no cockfighting in the whole United States.

As to [illegible] ethics, I'm sure "hillbilly" is a racist and derogatory word. What if my [illegible] friend, much less, a reporter, would use that word in a national newspaper? That [illegible] statement drove it.

So, I hope that [illegible] conclude the merits of 9,000,000 Filipinos [illegible] cockfighting in the PCA[illegible] 10 percent of the population [illegible] cockfighting all [illegible]. Think the slender Cree has come on me and my fellow [illegible] in this square. Politicking him, unmarried artists [illegible] with tears and racist statements, certainly realize just [illegible] standards.

—[illegible], president, Subeng mol.ph

children's hour

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From its first hour which began in the United Kingdom as "Children's Promise," Children's Hour immediately grew and went global with the 810-based letter-adopted Youth Foundation becoming the lead. Top businessman and PT member Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala brought the campaign to the Philippines. Boo. Children's Hour Philippines was born.

Initially a four-month-and-the-millions-campaign, Children's Hour was able to raise over P30 million that benefited 22 child-focused organizations.

The overwhelmingly generous response, and the continued clamor for children's aid, inspired the return of Children's Hour in 2002. From 1999, to the relaunch in 2002, and as of December 2010, CHH has raised P77.82 million from over 1,400 cooperating companies. This allowed us to fund 58 comprehensive human-centered development (CHD) projects for the [illegible] Bayanihan Center. This will be the first Children's Hour summit for organizations working in children's development.

Children's Hour and its donors, sponsors and media partners have generously shared their time and effort. It's worth for the past ten years and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Read more about the 10th anniversary of Children's Hour at Section E.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Bad roads hold back growth of Siruma

By Jonas Cabico Sabas
Inquirer Camarines Sur

THE deplorable road conditions has kept Siruma poor and isolated despite its strategic location and abundant natural resources.

The fourth class town (annual income: P20 to 30 million) of 17,000 people lies where the waters of the Pacific Ocean and San Miguel Bay merge, one of the richest fishing grounds in this province.

Located in the northernmost point of Camarines Sur, about 80 kilometers northeast of Naga City the town boasts white-sand beaches that could rival the world-famous beaches of Caramoan, also in the province.

It also has a fine natural harbor located in Barangay Tinobo that could accommodate large ocean vessels.

Despite these advantages, the town languishes in poverty and virtual isolation from the rest of the province, especially during inclement weather.

With the new municipal administration, little has changed. The road is still in a state of disrepair.

"The provincial government has provided us with all the assistance it can give, including infrastructure projects and use of heavy equipment," says Mayor Hanly Tinobo.

But he says Siruma needs the support of the national government. "It should provide enough funds for the rehabilitation and paving of the road at the soonest possible time."

The poor road condition has created so much poverty to their town, he says.

Impassable road

He is referring to the Tinambac-Siruma Road, which connects his town to the neighboring but more affluent Tinambac town.

The 40-km road of gullies and potholes traverses the villages of Poblacion, Hubangbanua, La Purisima and Pandanlo to Siruma, and San Vicente.

"My brothers and sister-in-laws, who do not own any land, have lost interest in the property because they have been discouraged by the slow progress of our town."

Simon says she is planning to lease the property to investors who might want to develop the beach front land into a resort.

"I am planning to market this place by posting photos of our 'paradise' on Facebook. My daughter is starting a fan page."

She says she is inspired by the success of Caramoan and the Caramoanons' Pinagsanjan Cove resort village beside the San Miguel Bay. "But we could not rely too much on our municipal government. How can it help us when it also needs help?" says Angeles.

The municipal government believes that the town's claim as a tourist destination, once established, will convince the national government to invest on the Tinambac-Siruma Road.

It hopes that once the road is improved, more tourists will provide jobs for the people of Siruma.

"We need good roads. Our people need jobs. If these won't be provided, the poor people in our town will get poorer," says Angeles.

Diadio says that cooperation among those who are ready and willing to help is needed for Siruma to prosper.

On Tuesday, the third engineering district of Camarines Sur has confirmed that Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson has pledged to allocate P80 million for the concreting of the "critical portions" of Tinambac-Siruma Road.

Assistant district engineer Gemma Tinebang said the concreting could be started before the end of this year.

"We are still preparing the program of works. The P80-million budget would be used to pave approximately 6 km. noncontiguous portions of the road," Tinebang said the hopes so.

SIRUMA, Camarines Sur, is just 80 kilometers away from Naga City but is takes passenger jeepneys more than eight hours to reach the town because of this kind of road. Motorcycles for rent are the alternative transport vehicles for Siruma residents wanting to go to the nearby municipality of Tinambac.

A BOY enjoys playing on a tree that sometimes the property's branch is broken by children when groups

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"Then the mines will be made to give up their gold for relieving distress, iron for weapons, copper, lead, and coal…and once more (the Philippines will be) free, like the bird that leaves its cage, like the flower that unfolds to the air, will recover the pristine virtues that are gradually dying out and will again become addicted to peace – cheerful, happy, joyous, hospitable and daring."

Part IV, *The Philippines A Century Hence*, Dr Jose Rizal 1889 (Translated by Charles E. Derbyshire)
This famous essay of Rizal entitled "Filipinas dentro de cien años" was first published in *La Solidaridad*, Madrid, between September 30, 1889, and February 1, 1890.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Closed mining firm still 'sows fear'

STREET LIFE
Children are accompanied by their parents wade through a flooded street in Cebu City after a heavy downpour on June 17, a sight that has become common during the rainy season in many parts of the country.
AP PHOTO/CEBU DAILY NEWS

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The continued presence of armed security men hired by a mining firm that was ordered shut down for illegal operations has been sowing fear among members of a tribal community in Zamboanga del Sur, the province's governor said yesterday.

Gov. Antonio Cerilles told reporters by phone that the Subanens, who have been opposing the operations of mining firm Lepanto Pilgrimstamp, were angry that armed men wanting for the PSN security agency would roam there.

"[The security agency's] security duty [is guards who are protecting the Subanens boy on the contrary, they are harassing the former]," said the governor.

Mayor Leonardo Balasan Jr., of Bayog town where Lepto was mining, said the harassments were not deliberate but because the guards were fully armed. Subanens felt threatened.

"They are afraid to see the guards even if they were only looking [at] us," he said.

Balasan said what might have intimidated the Subanens was the way the guards acted in the past.

He said the guards acted like they were the law in the Subanen communities.

"They established several checkpoints that were not fully coordinated with the local government and state security forces like the police and military. In fact, I was once held in one of their checkpoints," Balasan said.

He said the provincial government had taken [the]initiative to dismantle the checkpoints.

Retired general Alexander Pagdilao, who runs AFPA, said he could not understand why he men were being accused of harassing the Subanens when they were just preventing their enemies against big mining companies.

Lepto has been claiming it is owned by the Subanens but its papers showed otherwise.

Pagdilao said he would have warned the allegations amounted to arrest as he could have the answers.

Cerilles said Lepto's activity has damaged more than 47.

Balasan said Lepto has since removed its heavy equipment from the Subanen villages.

"All the heavy equipments and facilities were already removed some land work, and only security forces remained in that mining area," he said.

Lepto has reportedly defied a cease-and-desist order issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Western Mindanao, but the provincial government finally closed the Subanen operations recently.

Lepto has been pairing itself off as a company formed by Subanen natives to explain their ancestral domain areas for minerals.

But based on documents the Inquirer has obtained, one of its owners is a Hunan Gov-P Cebu Mining and Management Corp. Cebu Mining has a partnership with China Metallurgical Group for Mineral Resources and Development.

Its president is Alasdair Anstrie, a Muslim-born Australian citizen.

Lepto has contracted PSTN to deploy more than 30 armed guards in six illegal mining sites in Zamboanga del Sur.

PSTN officials have claimed that the guards were "1,000 percent behaved." Aries Arguilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Gov't to spend ₱12.50 a child in feeding plan

BAGUIO CITY—The government is spending P12.50 per child per day to improve the nutrition of more than 40,000 children in the Cordillera, according to officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said her department has started a six-month feeding program aimed at improving the health of children aged three to five.

She said a study made by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) showed that hunger among children has persisted in the last 20 years.

"The supplemental feeding program is a big challenge," said Soliman.

The program, she said, will cover 49,000 day-care centers in different provinces.

Soliman said the government is aiming to improve nutrition among children aged three to four. The children here were fed with a complete meal of meatballs, soup, rice and spaark mojo (dessert) made from squash and corn).

Shirley Fongwan, city social welfare officer, said the government is spending P12.50 a meal for every child.

"The program used to cover selected students but now, we have to feed all children because of this government's thrust to improving their health," Fongwan said. (Jovelyn Cabiaca, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Higher fare for Baguio taxicabs seen chance to fight 'colorums'

BAGUIO CITY—Taxicabs in the summer capital will soon charge a P30 flag-down rate, but not after the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) of the Department of Transportation and Communications sees the new rate as an opportunity to remove colorum cabs.

Emmanuel Carantes, president of the Benguet-Baguio Taxi Drivers Association of Cordillera, said the DOTC-imposed a June 16 resolution from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) which adds P30 to the current P25 flag-down rate and an additional P1 for the succeeding 200 meters.

The Baguio rate is still lower than those for taxicabs in the rest of the country. In Antipolo, the LTFRB allowed taxicabs, except those in Baguio, to charge a flag-down rate of P40 and an additional P5.50 for the succeeding 500 meters.

The new rate will be enforced in the middle of July at 15 days after the DOTC publishes the order in a local newspaper, said Perfecto Kilang, Cordillera coordinator of the public transport affairs office under the Office of the President.

That has given Celso Chavez, DOTC Cordillera director, time to draft new guidelines that would order a mandatory review of the documents of all taxicabs operating in Baguio before their owners are allowed to recalibrate their cab meters, Kilang said.

"It would be the fastest way for the DOTC to apprehend colorum cabs because they are operating illegally," he said.

Based on newly promulgated resolution, the DOTC has enforced a moratorium on the issuance of new public transport franchises because of an oversupply of public utility jeeps and taxicabs operating in Baguio.

But at a recent city council session, councilor Diamond DOTC officials for their apparent inability to clamp down on unregistered taxicabs operating at night.

DOTC documents show there may be 1,000 taxicabs plying the city streets, half of which are not old or have questionable papers.

Last month, the owners of 741 public utility franchises petitioned the city council to legitimize their documents which were issued during the moratorium. The council has yet to act on their plea. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO taxicabs will offer the cheapest rates compared to other taxis in the country, despite a new P25 flag-down rate.
RICHARD BOY CHAN/INQUIRER

Salmonella found cause of Bulacan food poisoning

CITY OF MALOLOS—Livestock eaten cracked at a garage near a kitchen may have been the cause of the salmonella outbreak that affected 200 people celebrating a birthday to a village in Calumpit town on June 12, health officials said here on Wednesday.

Jocelyn Gomez, Bulacan public health officer, said officials found chicken and dogs roaming freely around the garage and kitchen of the house in Barangay Meysulao where a large gathering celebrated the birthday of a 2-year-old boy.

She said they also found that the cage containing a pair of pigeons was located 10 meters from the kitchen, where the family prepared home-cooked spaghetti, lechon and fried chicken for guests.

Gomez said the garage is near the kitchen, as it also served as an extension area for food preparation.

In a public health report sent by the inspection team, the Bulacan health office said that salmonella infection develops when a person consumes food contaminated with food bacteria.

The report said the presence of salmonella bacteria was detected in 30 of 192 victims who were tested by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

Stool samples from chicken and pigeons kept at the Meysulao house also submitted to the Philippine National Health Institute Diagnostic Laboratory Center said. Gil-Nelle Rivera-Escape, Inquirer Central Luzon

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES (UNP)
VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENCY

The Board of Regents of the University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Vigan City, Ilocos Sur hereby and publicly announces that the Search for the next President of UNP is now open.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants for UNP Presidency must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must not be less than forty five (45) years old and not be more than sixty-one (61) years old (birth date) at the time of application;
2. Must be a naturalized or Filipino citizen;
3. Must have a master's degree or equivalent degree;
4. Must have proven track record as an administrator such as President, Vice President, Campus Administrator, Director of big institutions (or equivalent) for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certificate of Appointment or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professional and/or administrative experience and the period covered;
5. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Documentary Requirements:

Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of original and six (6) certified photocopies of the following documents to the SCP Secretariat:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to the Chairperson of the SCP;
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of the documents in support of the data stated in the CV;
4. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Goals for the College/University;
5. Certification/clearance from the following Government agencies, obtained not more than one(1) month from the date of filing of application indicating applicant has no administrative and criminal conviction:
   - Sandiganbayan
   - Ombudsman
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
   - Current employer where the applicant is presently employed
6. Duly accomplished CSC Form 212 (with code) with;
7. NBI-authenticated Birth Certificate
8. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a physician from a DOH-recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed;
9. Results of Neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by a physician from a DOH-recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed.

Important: Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documents in sealed envelope (1) addressed on or before June 30, 2011, 5:00 PM to either of the following:

CORA RONALD BICAYDET
Chairperson, UNP Board of Regents
Commission on Higher Education
HEDC Building, CP Garcia Ave.
U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

OR

HON. SHERLHEIN ROMAN
Chairperson, UNP Search Committee
University of Northern Philippines
Tamag, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

Attention:

ATTY. LUTHERIAN JBELLA
Director, BOARD AFFAIRS
Commission on Higher Education

ATTY. EMMA CONCEPCION, JR.
Director, Office of Legal Affairs
Executive Assistant for the President
University of Northern Philippines

Tigers, Aces repulse foes

Listless Air21 still winless

By Hussein R. Cantilla

THE ALASKA Aces played catch-up practically all game but never relinquished the lead once they got it in the fourth period last night for a 107-102 victory over B-Meg Derby Ace in the PBA Governors' Cup commissioner at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Several players stepped up for the Aces in the payoff frame, with the 5-foot-8 JA Tenorio the biggest after shooting all but four of his 16 points, most of them baskets that came at the most crucial times in Alaska's finally broke into the win column at 1-1.

Tenorio converted on a driving right-handed layup with 10:00 remaining which gave the Aces a 79-73 lead, and Alaska hung tough from there to quell momentum Derby Ace rallies until the final buzzer.

Besides Tenorio, Anthony and Jay Reyes were big for Homerade outlast in the night, and the oft-maligned Tigers snapped out of their own set after a 109-91 victory over hitless Air21.

Gian kept the Express as the only one-loss team in the tournament.

James Yap continued his masked impersonation for the Aces, shooting a PBA career-best 20 points that went with 12 rebounds and four assists while also putting the nails on an Alaska standout Jeo Severino.

The Gamebox-ites fell to 1-2 and last night's game could be the last for interim Stephen Hamada, who finished with 16 points, a certain Myron Allen is reportedly on the way to the country as Hamada's replacement.

Sunday Thon had 20 points and 10 boards while Cyrus Baguio and Mark Barroca combined for another 21 points to complete a balanced attack.

James Yap, the reigning MVP, ended in 20 points for the Llamados.

Anthony scored 13 points and Reyes, the second to the last player selected in the last Draft, had 11 of his career-high 14 in the fourth quarter as the Tigers held off the Express rookies Ola and Jerry Indoy Jr. combine in three outings and in the roller.

DONDON Hontiveros (right), whose **shine has bright spots for Talisay** Air21, relies on defender **Jeff Newcomb to muffle Tigers,** knocking in 11 of his career-high 14 in the fourth for his Red Panerada.

HBO may air Manny's latest fight

By Ray Lustre

SHOWTIME has the inside track, but HBO may yet spring a surprise and make a solid bid to air the third fight of the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez trilogy on Nov. 11.

After all, a Pacquiao headliner, regardless of the opponent, is a guaranteed blockbuster as proven by the pound-for-pound king's 147-pound duals with Oscar Mosley on May 7.

Though presented to be a rematch after it was first announced, Pacquiao-Mosley raked in a hefty 1.3 million pay-per-view buys, worth about $71 million, for Showtime, which was given the broadcast rights by fight promoter Top Rank over longtime partner HBO.

As a result, Showtime enjoys the right of first refusal in Pacquiao-Marquez III.

Kevin Iole of Yahoo Sports tweeted that Top Rank chief Bob Arum will meet with Showtime executives today to receive its initial offer.

If CBS throws the full support behind Showtime in the showdown, then HBO will need to use its promotions powers and shell out more money to reclaim the broadcast rights.

Pacquiao's fights have generated an average of more than a million buys for HBO. His fight with Oscar De La Hoya raked in 1.25 million ($59.9m), Ricky Hatton (804,000), Miguel Cotto (1.25) and Antonio Margarito (1.15 million).

Showtime showed a viewer base larger than HBO's after Pacquiao's fight with Mosley exceeded those PPV figures.

Team Manila softbelles returning to World Series

TEAM MANILA completed a three-game sweep of Asians to capture the Big League title in the Asia Pacific Softball Championships in Bacolod City yesterday and book a return trip to the 2013 World Series.

Powered by several World Series veteran stars, the Manila softballer punctuated their dominance of the Commission on Sports and Development with a 12-2 drubbing in the third game at the University of St. La Salle field.

Pitcher Veronica Bellezza lead ing the way, Manila raced to an 8-0 advantage after two innings to virtually settle the outcome.

Manila also beat Guam by scores of 16-0 and 11-0 in the first two games of their four-of-five series.

The team of coach Ana Santiago and Manila Councilor Cha Bermoneo, who also manages the squad, will fly to Kalamazoo, Michigan, site of the World Series tournament, in August to represent the Asia Pacific region.

Manila has finished second twice in the past three years in the World Series and is confident that this time around they can finally achieve their goal this year.

"With better preparation and better support, our chances of winning will improve significantly," said Santiago, whose squad is led by Rio Udlo and top pitcher Bellezza.

Meanwhile, International Little League Association of Manila (Zone) champion Marikina scored straight wins in the Senior League division after downing Cebu, 10-0.

The Illinois pals hosted Guam, 3-1, to open their campaign in the tournament that will determine the At-Pac representative to the Senior League World Series in Cheboygan.

Mirambeau and Bacolod, both a win away from sweeping the Major and Junior League divisions, respectively, got for the ill-fate against their Guam counterparts today after their matches were rained because of heavy rains. *Gerard P. Tigno*

TEAM Manila members celebrate with Manila councilor Cha Bermoneo (middle).

AVENIDO LIZARDO ZAPPA LIZARDO

4 PH jins seeking 2012 Olympic slots

By Mary Anthony Reyes

FOUR of the country's top taekwondo fighters vie to crash the London Olympics next year when they compete in the 2011 World Qualification Tournament on June 25 to July 4 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

John Paul Lizardo (men's 54 kg), Mahar Avenido (men's 68 kg), Jyne Marie Lizardo (women's 49 kg) and Jude Zafra (women's 57 kg) will go for at least a bronze medal in the year summit to assure outright slots in the 2012 Olympics.

The event is the first of a series of qualifiers for the Olympics, where each country is allowed a maximum of four qualifiers.

The Asian qualifying is slated in Bangkok in October.

"The fighters will be pitted against the best from around 100 other countries," said delegation head and Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Hung Chun-Hsiung. "They have their tough the tournament is going to be but they are confident of making the Olympics because of their experience and long preparation."

Team manager Bobby Somera, Korean coach Kim Sung-ok and international referee Roland Garcia round out the Team National team delegation.

Lizardo, the sport's 21-year-old poster boy who clinched his TV and commercial modeling career to focus on the Olympics, is the country's top Olympic aspirant.

He bagged silver medals in the 2010 Asian championships, the 2009 Southeast Asian Games and the 2006 Beijing Olympics tune event, and bronzes in the 2010 Asian Games and 2008 Asian championships held in China.

Avenido, 23, is the 2008 Asian champion and a silver medalist in the 2009 Southeast Asian Games and the 2009 Asian Martial Arts Games. He is also the 2010 Asian championship bronze medalist.

Jyne Lizardo, John Paul's 18-year-old sister, captured bronze medals in the 2009 Luzo SEA Games, 2010 Korea Open and the 2008 Asian Championships. She also made the quarterfinal of the World Championships last year.

Zafra, 20, won a silver in the 2010 Asian championships and a bronze in last year's Korea Open.

The Philippines managed two-or-zero jins in the Beijing Games four years ago, and was able to qualify four in the 2000 Sydney Games, and three in 2004 Athens.

The Team Philippines' month-trip is supported by Smart Communications, PLDT and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Did Nikki beat Gringo to the draw?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Just like that.

Then Nikki dropped the bomb.

She filed graft and corruption and money laundering charges before the Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday.

Named respondents were former Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Efraim Genuino, former Philippine Sports Commission chair Jolly Gomez and PAGCOR president Ankula.

The case involved P88.8 million in financial assistance directly "released" by Napoy to Pino to fund a four-year program leading to the 2012 London Olympics.

After the expulsion, Genuino forwarded this statement to this reporter:

"FOC, PSC, Pagcor officials have been sued every damn day. P88-million source of ex-Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino using Mark Joseph, Pino president, as conduit to siphon money out of Pagcor to pave bath into his own 'Team Gilas.'"

Former College Inc., which started as a non-paper school, was founded by Genuino and his wife Aurora in 1986.

"Hats, please savior initiative, I hereby call on President Noynoy Aquino to punish all those involved, including those who conspired," Genuino said.

Anyway, not to be outdone, former national taekwon Yuna Pepe, whose misfires were disqualified from the Athens Games finals, fired off this statement:

"Finally, the filings of graft charges against Mark Joseph, the money man against Julius Garcia, the undisputed money in his cohort bombing Ibrahim Paraweerha, the unlimited takeover by Any Ampatuan of security, PNP, and control of Philippine Olympic committee politics.

She added: "The FOC now stands with no expense and unmasked dictatorship, like the money-laundering mastermind of office in the Mindanao."

Meanwhile, former PSC chair Ricardo Garcia explained that his role in the resurrection of Nikki was purely ministerial.

According to the athlete herself, until that "regardless of how the money from the Pagcor was released or disbursed, it was spent in its purposes and did not end up in anybody's pockets."

Pepe says neither a denial nor a disclaimer from Genuino is germane.

Of course, Nikki herself insisted that she's a hot draw, despite that beside blast on Tuesday.

But if the case progress, it would be hard to deny Nikki her former College to the camp.

FLORENDO Fastest leg in town

Floirendo sweeps sprint, Main GT

VINCENT Floirendo swept the third leg's Sprint and Main GT races recently to tighten his grip of the lead in the 2011 Hardcarera Philippine GT Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Winning last from the start, Floirendo notched the fastest lap with a time of 1:47.976 to pull away from his chasers in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

In the final race, Floirendo passed all drivers, except reigning titlist William Tan and bobby Ong Jr., to steer both the overall GT and GT2000 victories.

Floirendo wrapped up the 15-lap race in 29 minutes and 4.949 seconds, a distant 2:17.359 seconds ahead of Tan.

Jared Gaches and his son Dwight Kevin clinched in third and fourth overall, as they also wound up 1-2 in the GT2000.

Alvin Ng of Fuel Force Motor Racing clinched in fifth as he topped the GT150 division over Dean Amon. Marc Peter Thorstenn captured the GT200 title over Elton Lucban.

Further in the Sprint Race, Floirendo studied his way up from sixth to win by 10.126 seconds. Gaches finished in second, while

Down to five able men, Gilas remains Seaba favorite

By Jure Navarro

JAKARTA—Down to five healthy men, Smart Gilas Pilipinas still expects to rise from the championship in the 9th Southeast Asian Basketball Association (SeaBA) Championship which (duh!) today at the Britama Arena here.

The Philippines got going against Malaysia with OIC Vice coach Bagbag Tan-ayan relying heavily on team captain Chris Tiu, Mark Isaac, Jiovi Bienabe, Jason Ballesteros and substituted center Marcio Dorsey.

"Nothing has changed. Our goal remains the same, which is to be champion of SeaBA," said Tan-ayan, after conducting a light workout yesterday to rest his ailing players.

Forward Japeth Aguilar is recuperating from an ankle injury while JV Casio Intal, Chris Lutz (quadriceps), Ryan Reyes (lower back) and Marcio Lassiter (back) are far from 100 percent.

"We're hoping some of them, if not all, could see some action because we will need all the help we could get," said Tan-ayan.

The top three teams in the tournament advance to the Fiba Asia Championship on Sept. 15 to 25 in Wuhan, China, where the champion gets a slot in the 2012 London Olympics.

Unlike the previous national team of FIBA stars, which dominated the SeaBA two years ago by an average winning margin of 38 points, Tan-ayan said the goal is just to win this time.

"We'll just win all our games," said Tan-ayan, who had earlier silenced Doubles Badminton and led Thailand to enjoy their respective FIBA squads in the opening Invitational Cup.

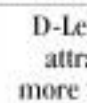
The Pinoymite supported squad under coach Yong Garcia swept its four assignment in Medan, Indonesia, two years ago by coaching the Singaporean (117-69), the Indonesians (101-69) and the Malaysians (109-72) before trouncing the hosts, 99-68, in the finals.

Despite the injuries, Smart Gilas team manager Frankie Lim said the morale of the team remains high.

"We're fine. I think we're ready for the tournament," said Lim.

Smart Gilas takes on host Indonesia tomorrow and Singapore on Saturday before the Gap Two teams dispute the crown on Sunday.

D-League attracts more teams



IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE RECENT successful conference of the PBA Developmental League was such a huge success so soon, bubbles are being up to spill by the membership.

PBA Chair Pato Badoy-Zobel, however, if all the same event venue could be accommodated.

"It might become unmanageable if an league has more teams. We see the commitment will be very long," he said.

A maximum of 10 teams would be just right, according to Badoy. That means current table hits could be added to the limit 14.

"We're attaching a lot of new teams because they've seen also the participating ballclubs are getting a good deal," Badoy said. "Participation cost is very reasonable, low. If I may say so, and the products they can't get only good talent being exposed to."

The D-league plans to use two-conference, sudden-end pint-sized. The format is the D-league potentially get the same amount of exposure as those in the PBA."

The local conference is tentatively set this October.

* * *

Still there be some kind of a draft for the Developmental league next season? I asked the PBA's representative and technical director Ricky Gatdula.

He he said there will be no players draft in October or next season—at least.

For some because PBL-bound rather participating in the D-League, the piece of information could cause concerns.

Just the other night, the manager of a popular PBL team said that one of the major reasons the league folded up was because the players were getting too much otherwise in the last two years.

In other words, recruitment of players was done directly by the teams.

I guess one way to avoid recruiting trouble within the ranks and not, causing chaos, confusion, and eventually erosion of the amateur league.

* * *

By last basketball Friday night a weak before the inaugural match and it was supposed.

PBL commissioner Chito Loyzaga and his fellow Cebu was lucky she didn't happened while having another golf outing.

Didn't matter! Abet and no event between Mendoza and Cebu are left alone to tend and leave to tragedy.

"If the unsafe happened at home, no one would leave. Because it and we we could have rushed him to the hospital," Cebu told his PBL countryman Ato Chan over the phone. His gentlemen brought Cebu to the hospital.

Thanks How to Australia nonetheless after being operated of Cebu's condition. The rest of the family who were here in Manila left for the Gold Coast a day later.

Among the Loyzaga children, only Ang SOCCER—not golf—bound here.

* * *

The good news is, Cebu is now fatal and undefeatable. He is past the critical stage and is definitely recovering, although I'm aware that he may no longer be able to continue his active lifestyle. In other words, he may no longer be able to play golf.

Out of the greatest, if not the greatest, basketeer the Philippines has ever produced, Cebu is often praised by colleagues for his unique skills, talent and naturally tough upbringing.

"Every time I talk to him, I will indestructible," said a common writer who sat down with him for a long interview last February when he came to Manila for his induction.

Then I met him after Cebu and Mel stayed in Manila, Cebu had to be rushed to the Makati Medical because he vomit like suffering breathing spells.

The doctors said he had an irregular heartbeat, so he was given the treatment of intravenous to correct the condition.

A few days after the operation, Cebu was already up and about.

In small group of veteran writers had lunch with him just before we checked in to meeting. There was absolutely no room that he has been confined to hospital for more than a week.

We are enthusiastically talking about our good old days with that characteristic loudly booming voice as he remarked on his pregnancy scandal.

Cebu said no smoking, how sticky is, he hence chose his appetite to eat.

And I guess, his appetite for life, too.

SOCCER Federer got his #Wimbledon campaign off to a good start. -r

Isner-Mahut 2 ends quickly

WIMBLEDON, England—Last night, the longest of losers vs. Mahut didn't live up to the original; just seven three.

The replay of the longest match in tennis history turned out to be a less-than Part II, with John Isner beating Nicolas Mahut in straight sets Tuesday in the first round at Wimbledon.

It was a tale very from the 2010 epic, in which Isner triumphed 70-68 in the fifth set of a marathon that lasted 11 hours, 5 minutes and stretched over three days.

"Nothing's going to live up to that match," the American said after winning Tuesday's contest, 7-6 (4), 6-2, 7-6 (5). "It would going to get that long."

On a day featuring Serena Williams' feats of joy after her long-awaited return to Grand Slam tennis and scintillating rules by Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, Isner and Mahut faced each other again on the grass of the All England Club where they made history last year.

But it was all straightforward and mundane until the tiny, 6-foot-9 tallest after 23 minutes, with Mahut rolling a forehand long on the second match point.

Few matches are likely to inspire the type of emotion that overtook Serena Williams after her 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 first-round win on Centre Court over Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

The four-time champion, returning to the major stage after missing nearly a year with serious health problems, broke into tears within seconds of striking the match with an ace.

"It definitely was an emotional for me because throughout the last 12 months, I've been through a lot of things that's not normal, things you guys don't even know about," she said.

Federer began his clash on a record-equaling seventh Wimbledon championship by beating Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-2.

And in improving was second-seeded Djokovic, who dropped just 11 points on serve in his four-Jeremy Chardy of France, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

AP

No easing up for PH booters, vows Palami

By Cardolf P. Topan

RANKING 4 takeaways, expectations of line-up country for nothing so far as Philippine football team manager Dan Palami is concerned.

Palami said there will be no letup for the tabbats in their build-up even as he shrugged off reports that Jun Guiller's preparation for the World Cup qualifying clash against the Philippines Lion set Down ahead.

The first leg of the tie will be played at Rajamangala Stadium in Cathedral on June 28, while the return leg is slated July 3 at the Pilipi Mestizo-sized Stadium in Manila.

"We are preparing diligently as we can," Palami told the business. "While we feel we have an advantage, we don't intend to rest on this. We're hoping to make history."

The Azkals were scheduled to play the third of their four tuning matches in the country against second division team FC Ingolstadt on Wednesday night.

"We are now at 80 percent," said Palami. "The passing of our preparations has been great."

Sir Ueda's former coach Aang Jung Bindo leading the Philippines will be a tall order for his eyewitness duty, which will be led by defender Pelayo Sunuvillabe of Isola del Sandoro.

In a recent interviews with Sri Lankan newspaper Daily Mirror, Aang also admitted that the team is behind in its preparations.

"They (the Azkals) have grown very fast and are going to be a difficult opponents to face," Aang said in the story that can be accessed at www.dailymirror.lk.

Reservations added hosting the Filipinos in Colombo will be a penalty.

Hope Christian keeps Fr. Martin cage crown

HOPE CHRISTIAN High School, drawing another solid performance from King Rosemarie and Raymond Tan, reaffirmed its supremacy over San Beda College, 81-70, and retained its Fr. Martin Cup championship on Sunday at the San Beda College gym.

It was the second title by Hope Christian in two weeks as it also beat the Red Cubs in triple overtime during the Filoil Flying V 3-on-3 tournament.

Hope Christian, supported by Mayor Bonifacio Bautista and OIC principal Cecilio E. Pedro and managed by Bernard Bag, also beat San Beda in last year's edition of the Fr. Martin Cup.

"The win this time is sweeter," said coach Stevenson Tiu Jr. Fil-Japan after his squads scored a dozen 3-3 assignments in the tournament.

The Red Cubs led most of the game until Rosemarie, who finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds, completed a steal with less than two minutes left that gave them a 77-74 lead.

Tan capped his brilliant fourth quarter show with a triple in the next play to essentially seal the victory.

YOUNG CHAMPS Members of the Philippine age group chess team, headed by National Chess Federation of the Philippines president and chief Prospero "Boots" Pichay Jr., NCFP Executive Director Efi Javier Bernardo, coach Jun Jason Jakosalem and coach Wilfredo Cubar, show off their medals during a courtesy call to Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia and PSC commissioners Buddy Andrada at the PSC Office. The team bagged a total of 41 medals (17 gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze) in a recent tournament in Ho Chi Minh National Vietnam and host Indonesia.

Coaches get P9.5-M incentives

By Mary Ann Jenny Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) presidents handed out checks totaling P9.5 million to 20 members of its medalist national athletes.

Pagcor president and chairperson Cristina Gonzales-Romulo personally distributed the incentives along with Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Richie Garcia and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. at the PSC complex.

"We would be turning these great athletes without them," said Garcia.

Under the Incentives Law approved in 2002, coaches also receive incentives based on the gold, silver and bronze performances of their respective athletes.

The two bowling coach Alfonso Aloha Yuchengco and Samson Wolff Cup champion Julieta Jacinto Rino, the PH women's team and PH men's team in the 1995 Asian Games, 1979 9th World FIQ and 1993 10th World FIQ, was the top earner among the 20 recipients with a total of P1,000,500.52.

Also Philippine Bowling Congress president Ernesto "Ted" Lapid, also a former coach, received P1,040,400 for supporting Bong Coo and Antonio Gochico in the 1979 9th World FIQ and 1986 Olympic Games.

Sen. Tito Sotto got P1.2 million as coach of Coo, Lolito Rebernardo and Olivia Cognicion in the 1979 Asiad, 1979 FIQ and 1980 World Games.

The late Francisco "Paeng" Au Yong, father and coach of tennis legend Leslie de Vega, received P447,200, while George Franklin got P90,000 for mentoring wife Elma Muros Franklin in the 1990 and 1994 Asiad.

DECORATED HONOREES Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia (left), Senator Hideo Thereza Santiago (2nd-Palarong Pambansa gold medalist in badminton this year, and reigning WBO minimumweight champion Donnie Nietes during the city's 73rd charter day celebration. Santiago and Nietes were lauded for bringing pride and glory to Bacolod City.

Obosa rules Stradcom cycling event

FORMER NATIONAL cyclist Ernesto Obosa ruled the First Stradcom Cycling Cup held in Pasay today, Pangasinan, recently.

Fresh from his one-week stint in the Tour de Singkarat in Indonesia, Obosa, 33, from Mintong, Pangasinan, pocket nasty from the 10-man lead pack to win by three bike lengths over Edwin Cabrera Sanchez and beat the Colombian, both of team Rini Manuel, Pangasinan.

Obosa pocketed P15,000 and a trophy while Sanchez and Gallovin netted P10,000 and P7,000, respectively in the event sponsored by Cesar U. Quintos Inc.

Quintos also awarded other prizes with Barangay Mayor Rozalia Cayanche and Vice Mayor Hilbert Junio after the Barangay Bayanihan Bike-Ride race organized by cycling tag and Jesse A. Garcia Jr.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Rudy Roque (Olongapo City), Kelvin Mendoza (Mariveles, Bataan), Noel Estrella, Jessie Bolocel, Reynaldo Bolocel, Jesse Cruz, Pendor Garcia (Dagupan), Cris Jesus Rivera Mendez and Mike Esteves (Bonuanboliao).

Taping Glyvhon Mangalino random Anmel de Jesus prevailed in the reverse category to total P8,000.

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Cops warn vs rise in online crimes

Tell Facebook, Twitter, Multiply users to set to 'friends only' mode

By DJ Yap

SEX PREDATORS, stalkers or crooks may be lurking among your Facebook friends.

In the wake of social media-related crimes, the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Wednesday warned the public against trusting online acquaintances and recommended setting their Facebook pages to "friends only" mode.

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagtilan, the CIDG director, noted an apparent upward trend in computer crimes, particularly identity theft, libel, estafa (fraud), harassment and hacking, for the first half of the year.

Profit in complaints of computer crimes in the agency from Jan. 1 to June 14 more hitted 56, just 26 cases short of the total for the entire 2010, he said in a briefing on Wednesday.

Of the complaints, Facebook was the second networking site of choice of most of the perpetrators, with six cases each of swindling and libel, three each of harassment and hacking, and five identity theft cases for the first six months. Two complaints for pornography were also registered in that period.

There were also complaints involving personal e-mail (five complaints), the re-cyberbugging site Twitter and Multiply (one each), and the online auction site eBay.

Eleven complaints for threats involving cellular phone use were also recorded for the same period, up from the four cases recorded for the whole of last year. On the other hand, only two credit card fraud cases were recorded in the first six months, compared to the six in 2010.

But Pagtilan clarified that the figures covered only the walk-in cases directly reported to the CIDG. He said that all law enforcement units other units to collect data on cyber crimes from the local police.

Senior Supt. Gilbert Sosa, CIDG Anti-Transnational Crime division head, said 619 spimes were heavy users of the Internet, particularly of social networks.

"In terms of Facebook use, we are ranked

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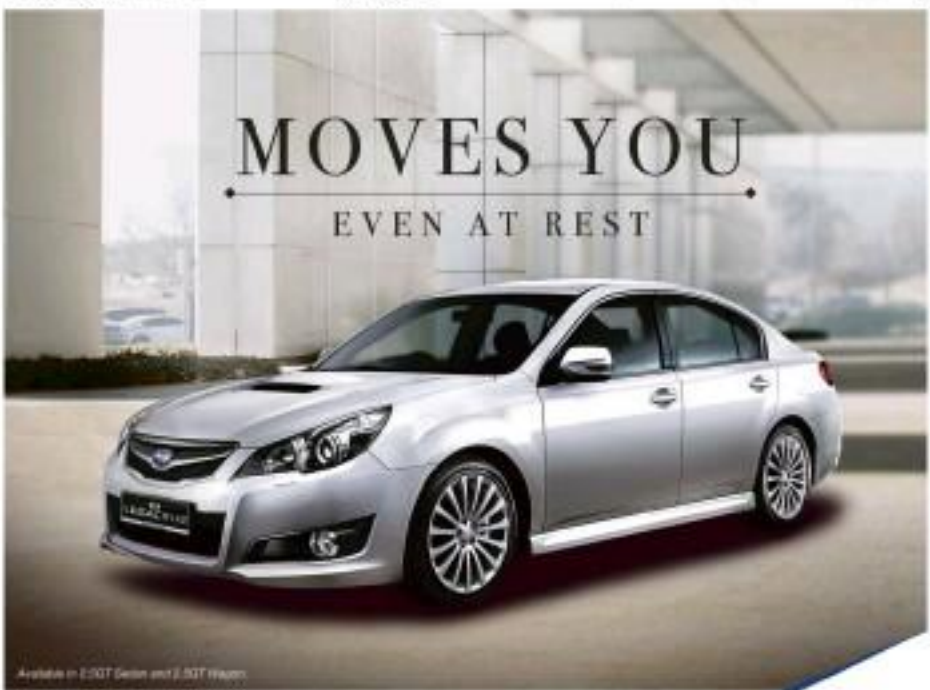

Makati City tones down sound of videoke music

By Tina G. Santos

MG MONE belting out of "My Way" in Makati City, unless ...

To minimize noise pollution, the Makati City Council is regulating the use of videoke and karaoke, the Filipinos' favorite pastime, as well as other similar amplified audio devices, within residential areas and along public streets in the city.

Under City Ordinance No. 2011-039, it shall be unlawful for any person to make or cause to be made any "excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud sound from the said audio devices within residences and on the streets, which annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, health, peace or safety of others within the city."

Any person who violates any of the provisions of the ordinance will be penalized with a fine of P1,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Banned acts

Acts that are declared to be unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise under the ordinance include operating, playing or permitting the operation or playing of any radio, CD player, television set, amplified musical instrument, stereo, loudspeaker, videoke or karaoke system, or other sound-producing device in such manner or with such volume so as to annoy the quiet and comfort of a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness in any dwelling or residence, or with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing of the persons who are in the place in which such device is operated.

Another factor to be considered "prima facie" evidence of a violation of the ordinance is when the sound generated from said device is plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from its location.

What's allowed

However, the ordinance allows residents to use or operate videoke or karaoke systems with amplifiers on the streets within "acceptable" videoke hours from Monday to Saturday until 12 midnight, provided they first secure a permit from their concerned barangay chief.

The applicant must fill out an application form provided by the barangay and file it with the barangay at least five working days before the actual date of the function. The form should include the following information: The nature of the intended activity, the type of audio device to be used, the specific location where the device will be used, and the period of time during which the device will be operated.

Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay said the ordinance seeks to protect residents and the general public from serious discomfort and health hazards posed by the unregulated use of videoke, karaoke and amplified sound systems within residences and on the streets.

The primary enforcers of the ordinance are the barangay officials and authorities and the Makati City Police.

Why can't P-Noy be like his father?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ESCALATING crime and a low solution rate have made Quezon City the country's crime capital.

It is a commentary on the inefficiency of the Philippine National Police, in general, and the Quezon City Police District, in particular.

The latest crimes that enraged the citizenry were the killings of event organizer Sheryl Sarmiento, who was apparently mistaken for someone else, and yoga practitioner Teresa Tsoibo.

The deaths of Sarmiento and Tsoibo were most notable, not only because they were women but also because they were committed at daytime in full view of many people.

Their assailants knew they could commit their crimes unimpeded because of the absence of uniformed cops on the streets.

* * *

Our cops chase criminals after crimes have taken place. This is wrong.

The primary duty of the police is to prevent crime from happening; crime solution is only secondary.

To prevent crime, uniformed cops should patrol the streets instead of staying at the police stations waiting for crime victims to file complaints.

* * *

Who is that irresponsible and uncaring TV reporter who mentioned the name, as well as the address, of an eyewitness to the killing of a woman in Kamuning, Quezon City?

Teresa Tsoibo was gunned down and then two more by armed men who stole her newly bought car in front of several people.

One of the eyewitnesses, a man, is now including for fear of his life.

His identity and complete address were reported on national TV network news.

The TV channel and reporter should be made answerable if the eyewitness is harmed.

* * *

President Noy's popularity rating has gone down further in the latest survey by the Social Weather Stations.

It will continue to dip if his family doesn't give up Hacienda Luisita.

The President's maternal relatives, the Cojuangcos, refuse to parcel out the vast farmland in its thousands of hectares or farmlands despite the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

CARL, passed under the administration of President Cory, P-Noy's mother, provides for the distribution of vast tracts of agricultural lands to tenant-farmers.

Hacienda Luisita is P-Noy's Achilles heel.

* * *

Some Catholic bishops are urging the President to continue his maternal relatives' control over Hacienda Luisita.

But as things are now, the chances of the Cojuangcos giving up Luisita is like Queen Elizabeth relinquishing her throne.

The Cojuangcos are the most opposite of the Aquinos. P-Noy's relatives on his father's side.

Manila Archbishop Teodoro Bacani likes to tell the following anecdote about the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.:

When Ninoy was standing at San Beda College in Manila in the 1950s, his uncle, Doña Aurora, visited him from Tarlac.

Ninoy, who every time already had a cellphone, asked Doña Aurora to do the errands their landholdings or their tenant farmers.

Aurora Aquino told her son it was impossible.

To which, Ninoy replied: "How can you go to church every Sunday and not practice what you preach?"

But Doña Aurora was adamant.

Several weeks after that exchange, the mother called her son.

She said that she had decided to distribute the land to their tenant farmers as Ninoy had requested.

Ninoy died, the Aquinos have not earned a big farm.

Why can't P-Noy be like his father?

Probe of alleged rape in PSG barracks pushed

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

THE RAPE complaint filed by a 13-year-old girl against a sergeant of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and two others should be "expeditiously investigated," a child-welfare party-list group said.

Akap Bata party-list national secretary general Aileen Bawas said in a statement that the accusations of rape against Sr.Sgt. Walter Candelaria and two others "should not be passed off as a simple matter" especially since they involve a minor and might stir a member of the elite group close to President Aquino himself.

"A case of child abuse and exploitation from those who have sworn to protect the country's sanctity is [serious]," Bawas said.

Bawasan, chief of the anti-President Aquino should begin "cleansing" the group of its "bad elements" should the allegations against Cpl. Dave be proven true. This, she said, will show that Aquino has concern for Filipino children, a sector she described as having been long neglected by the previous administration.

"We will be keeping an eye on this case ... Heads must roll [should the allegations be proven true]," Bawas added.

The 15-year-old, whose name has been withheld because she is a minor, accused Candelaria and two others of sexually abusing her inside the PSG barracks at the Malacañang compound in Manila. She claimed that she had been "held" to the mercies by Barangay 637 Zone 65 chair Angelo Bautista.

Bautista has denied the charges. Both he and Candelaria are in the custody of the Manila police.

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MMDA tears down illegal billboards along Edsa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday started to demolish billboard structures along Edsa that were found violating the National Building Code and violations premises from local government units.

First to be removed was the billboard located near a gasoline station at the corner of Edsa and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Barangay Bel-Air.

According to MMDA traffic enforcement chief Bong Nebrida, the billboard structure, which was put up by advertising firm United Neon, was dismantled by virtue of a demolition order issued by the Makati City government.

"The Makati government sought the MMDA's help to dismantle the billboard frame since no action has been taken yet by the advertising company to address its violations," Nebrida said, adding that the demolition order was issued by the Makati government in September 2007.

In his order, Makati City engineer Nelson Morales said they recommended the demolition of the structure because of its blatant violation of certain provisions of the Structural Philippine Highway Act and the National Building Code.

Morales said the structure of the demolition order. Morales said a technical evaluation and field inspection of the advertising sign was conducted. He said their assessment revealed that the structure was "basically illegal and a nuisance, which is extremely hazardous as it poses imminent danger to life, health, safety and property of the public."

The demolition of illegal billboards was part of the MMDA's "Operation Bull Dozer, Bully" a crackdown on giant billboards displayed along Edsa, which the agency, along with the DPWH and local governments, once again launched recently.

Last week, the MMDA filed criminal complaints against owners of buildings and outdoor advertising firms who have put up illegal billboards.

Tina G. Santos

Cops warn

Front page, A12

fifth in the world ... In terms of internet use, we are 27th in the world. Almost 30 percent of our population is connected to the Internet," he said.

He said the best tip for social media users is to customize the privacy settings of their profiles. During the briefing, he mentioned not to share vis-à-vis destinations from this area done.

The recommended setting, Sosa said, is "friends only" meaning only people they have acknowledged/knowing shall be able to view their pictures, information and other posts.

Pagdilao said, "Right now, it's very important to have awareness, and media plays an important role here, in informing people to be very very careful especially in uploading information about themselves."

"You know that any information that you upload can be used by everybody for whatever purpose. But, 'hey that girl is beautiful.' One may fall in love, become obsessive and start stalking her," he said.

"You don't know what it would do to a criminal mind. They may even use it in kidnapping victim ... they can do that because everybody can access the information," Pagdilao said.

The official also cited a trend in cyber crimes and selling cyber crimes and selling products.

Last week, TV divisive Becky Eleven, 30, was stabbed more than 30 times by a man he had met through Facebook and who he had invited to sleep over in his home. Hans Sarao, 32, who was arrested by the police, denied the charge.

On Saturday, Shaira Lou Dominguez, 44, a female call center employee, was found dead inside her friend-playing City home. Hans Sarao, 32, who was arrested by the police, denied the charge.

On Saturday, Shaira Lou Dominguez, 44, a female call center employee, was found dead inside her friend-playing City home. Hans Sarao, 32, who was arrested by the police, denied the charge.

Dominguez was reportedly last seen alive with her boyfriend whom she had met on Facebook.

MetroBriefs

Coed left alone in house hacked to death by thief

A 20-YEAR-OLD senior college student of La Consolacion College in Quezon City was killed in Quezon City was hacked to death by a still unidentified suspect early Tuesday morning, police reported yesterday. Records at the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit identified the victim as Jean Pamela of Herrera Street, Amalia Subdivision, Barangay Sangandaan, Quezon City. Police said the coed was found by the victim's roommate at around 7:00 a.m. Tuesday. The roommate reported to the police investigation showed that the victim's parents, who own a road shop, were out at home when the crime was committed. Based on the report of Insp. of the Crime Operations, the victim sustained hack wounds on various parts of her body. The victim died a bloodied body and lying on the victim's body.

Aaron C. Carvajal

Hospital patient kills self

A PATIENT at the United Doctors Medical Center in Quezon City jumped to his death from the fifth floor of the hospital on Tuesday, police reported. Senior Insp. Lino Cruz, police chief of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit identified the patient as Alejandro de Lima, 68, a resident of Barangay Batangas province. Reports said De Lima was brought to the hospital on June 8 and was advised to be confined due to a chronic cerebrovascular pulmonary disease. According to his relatives, the victim lately talked the past few days. Reports added a witness as saying that De Lima jumped from the window of his room at around noon Tuesday and landed on the second floor roof of the UDMC's Southwest Union College Inn. Suffering from head injuries and an abrasion on the left knee. He was rushed to the emergency room but died a few minutes later. It was learned that the victim's daughter, who was watching over him, had gone out for lunch when the incident happened.

Aaron C. Carvajal

Pasay pet shops selling endangered species raided

THE PASAY City government seized various endangered species following a raid at several pet shops in Pasay City Wednesday.

Among the animals seized from various pet shops in Carriedan Market are Kalaubalak, Tarsi-Tarsi to non-doves, Dimasa soft shell turtles, garter snakes, ringneck parrots and Malaysian civet, Jerry pigeons. Many of the animals were kept hidden under after cages or behind the attendant's counter presumable to avoid detection, said Dr. Ronaldo Bernardo, chief of the Pasay City Veterinary Office. He said the rare and exotic species that were seized are popular among animal collectors. Prior to the raid, Bernardo said they received information that many pet shops in the area were selling endangered species. The seized animals were taken to the Parks and Wildlife of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City for safekeeping.

Elmer C. Bartolo

Nato defends air war in Libya

TRIPOLI—Nato defended the credibility of its air war in Libya after a bomb misfired killing civilians, as Libyan rebels said they would not negotiate with Muammar Gadhafi's regime.

Nato commanders' vow made after high level security talks Tuesday to which the two governments also agreed to share missile defense technology with allies — an exception to Japan's strict policy of banning exports of weaponry.

The delay in the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the southern island of Okinawa had been widely anticipated. Japan's government has failed to win the assent needed from residents there, although the plans aim to reduce the US military footprint on the island that hosts more than half of the 47,000 American troops in Japan.

A joint statement said the relocation would be completed at the "earliest possible date" after 2014, the original deadline.

The talks involving US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa, underscored an alliance that they declared is "indispensable to the peace, stability and economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region."

They touched on a wide range of global and regional security concerns, including North Korea's nuclear program and Afghanistan, but also highlighted an issue that complicated their relationship.

Okinawan deep-seated opinions on Okinawa over the air station. Okinawans is "very hardy." He told a news conference that Japan would make its best efforts to gain the understanding of Okinawa's governor and residents — many of whom resent the presence of US forces because of pollution, noise and crime associated with military bases.

Gates urged Japan to move quickly.

Referring to the demands of an influential group of US senators who have moved to freeze US funding for the relocation, Gates said that reflected "impatience with the lack of progress." He said he had complained to Japan the importance of economic progress over the next year.

One of the senators, Democrat Jim Webb, said in a statement that Tuesday's decisions were predictable. He said the extension delay in the relocation underscored the importance of reorganizing US military basing "to a more realistic manner for the good of our alliance and for our strategic posture to East Asia."

The US and Japan reinforced plans, spelled out in a 2006 agreement, for relocating operations to be shifted to a less crowded part of Okinawa, where a new airfield would be built. Some 8,000 Marines would also be shifted to the US Pacific territory of Guam. They also confirmed their commitment to fund it. Japan is to foot much of the multibillion-dollar bill.

Japan, the world's third largest economy faces its own financial burdens after years of malaise and then the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the country's northern coastline and left about 20,000 people dead or missing. Tokyo is estimated at $300 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in history.

That disaster, however, also underscored the strength of the US-Japan alliance, as the American military mounted a massive humanitarian assistance campaign that was well received in Japan.

Kitazawa said the significance of stationing US forces in Japan, including on Okinawa, was underscored by the Japanese people in the aftermath of the quake and had brought them a "greater sense of security."

Japan agreed to a U.S. request to share with allies the SM-3 Block IIA, a ship-based missile defense system jointly developed by the two countries, in cases where it would contribute to Japan's national security or international peace and stability.

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa told reporters Japan said this was an exception to Japan's strict policy barring exports of weapons, and was agreed on principally for security reasons, but also to manage the costs of joint research. AP

US, Japan delay Marine base transfer

The world's oldest person dies in Brazil

SAO PAULO—A Brazilian woman listed by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest person died on Tuesday, just weeks shy of her 115th birthday. The exact date seems to a woman in the United States.

Maria Gomes Valentim died of multiple organ failure, said Heleonor Lima, a spokesperson for the nursing home where she lived. Valentim would have turned 115 on July 8.

Guinness on Tuesday said on its website that Valentim, "the first Brazilian super centenarian to be listed (by title)," died at the age of 114 years, 347 days.

On May 13, Guinness determined that Valentim was 48 days older than the person previously considered the world's oldest woman, Besse Cooper, from Monroe, Georgia.

"With Maria's passing, the title of Oldest Living Person returns back to American Besse Cooper, age 114 years 209 days," Guinness said.

The Georgia woman's son, Sid Cooper, said on Tuesday that his mother is doing well at her Monroe retirement community. AP

VALENTIM

Child survivor in Russian air crash dies

MOSCOW—A young survivor of the air crash in southwestern Russia died of his multiple injuries, bringing the death toll in the tragedy to 45, a health ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Anton Terekhov and his teenage sister Anastasia were among eight people who survived the Tuesday air crash in the mountain region of Karelia that instantly killed 44, including their mother.

Anton Terekhov died last night, he had grave injuries," spokesperson for regional health ministry Elena Rakhovetova, told AFP.

In conflicting reports, officials said earlier the boy was nine, while the regional health ministry said he could be 10.

But 14-year-old sister who was transferred to Moscow for treatment along with several other survivors is in stable condition, Rakhovetova added.

The Russia Tupolev 134 was trying to land at its destination of Petrozavodsk in Karelia region of northwestern Russia in bad weather but failed to make the runway and instead hurtled onto a road two kilometers away.

Investigators said it was too early to jump to conclusions but Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said the crash appeared the result of an error by the pilot who tried to spot the runway visually in bad weather and failed. AFP

Darwin book returned to library—122 years late

SYDNEY—A first edition Charles Darwin book returned to its origins last week some 122 years late, when it was handed back to the Australian library to which it belongs.

Darwin's "Insectivorous Plants" was first owned from the Camden School of Arts borrowed library on Sydney's outskirts sometime in 1880.

But it was only returned to the library, now part of Camden Council's facilities, earlier this month.

The council has waived the estimated $AUD1,000 ($US827.000) overdue fine clocked up over the near century-and-a-quarter hiatus, and a parading over the book's history.

"It's been on a lot of journeys as far as we can tell," said the council's Linda Campbell. "Where it's been we don't know ... maybe down the back of a couch."

The book had been in the collection of retired veterinarian Ron Hynes for about 50 years, and it was among items he donated to the University of Sydney last month.

The university returned it to the library after noticing its borrowing stamp and the book is now set to be available to the reading public for viewing—although not borrowing.

Hynes said he was not sure how he acquired the book, but thought it could have been given to him by another veterinarian or by a Sydney University academic in the 1950s.

"I've been racking my brain as to exactly where the book came from and how long I had it," he said, adding that he was pleased that it would be available to the public again.

Campbell said the book, which contains several black and white drawings of plants, was in excellent condition considering its age but that no inquiries had been made as to how much it was now worth. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

7 killed in Syria protest

BEIRUT—Syrian President Bashar Assad's effort to drown out pro-democracy protests exploded into clashes between government supporters and opponents, and security forces opened fire and killed seven people, including a teenage, activists said. The violence flared on Tuesday, today after Liquored in rallied abroad, offered a rapid promise of reform in an attempt to defuse the spreading movement, tens of thousands of regime supporters converged on squares in several major cities on Tuesday shouting, "The people want Bashar Assad!" and waving black, white and red tricolors—colors of the Syrian flag. They soon clashed with opposition supporters, drawing in security forces. In a main square in the peninsula of Hama, security personnel opened fire on anti-regime protesters, killing a 13-year-old boy, said the Local Coordination Committees, which track the Syrian protest movement. Three other people were reported killed in Homs, or central Syria, and three in the Mayadin district in the eastern city of Deir al Zour during pro- and anti-regime demonstrations. AP

Mexico nabs drug cartel boss

MEXICO CITY—Federal authorities apprehended the leader of the cult-like, powerful Gulf cartel in a raid on Tuesday saying they had dealt a debilitating blow to a major organized crime group that terrorized southern Mexico. Jose de Jesus Mendez Vargas, alias El Chango, or "The Monkey," was arrested in the central state of Aguascalientes without confrontation or casualties, said federal security spokesman Alejandro Poire. A state official who was not authorized to speak on the record said Mendez was taken at a federal police checkpoint, but authorities didn't provide details. "With this arrest, what remained of the command in charge of this criminal organization has been dealt a blow," Poire told a news conference. AP

13 die in clash, bomb in Pakistan

PESHAWAR—Officials say Islamist militants have attacked a police checkpoint in northwest Pakistan, triggering a shootout that left 13 insurgents dead. Dumbbell Lu Familia raided on Tuesday say they fled that a gunfight time for a major organized crime group that terrorized southern Mexico. Jose de Jesus Mendez Vargas, alias El Chango, or "The Monkey," was arrested in the central state of Aguascalientes without confrontation or casualties, said federal security spokesman Alejandro Poire. A state official who was not authorized to speak on the record said Mendez was taken at a federal police checkpoint, but authorities didn't provide details. "With this arrest, what remained of the command in charge of this criminal organization has been dealt a blow," Poire told a news conference. AP

China plans to step up fight vs corruption

BEIJING—China's ruling Communist Party says it plans more inspections and supervision of officials as it tackles corruption, a deep-rooted problem that has gotten worse and could threaten political stability. The party's new chief vows her disciplined Wu Yanbing said at a news conference on Wednesday that it will monitor the use of public vehicles and supervise officials' financial assets in cash and combat illegal financial activities. China has launched numerous efforts in its anti-graft, but it remains common among Communist Party officials. Corruption is often a focal point of contents by ordinary Chinese. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region I
DIVISION OF ILOCOS
Region I, Central Office

DepED

Invitation to Bid

1. The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of P 5,000 as one (one thousand) [illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of Two (2) storey school in the Division of Ilocos as per schedule.

2. Bidders should have completed, within [illegible] days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The similarity of the contract shall be determined by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Education, Division of Ilocos and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible].

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on [illegible] from the Department of Education, Division of Ilocos and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible].

7. The Department of Education, Division of Ilocos reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Chairman, BAC

[illegible]
Member, BAC

The WORLD

Edita Laverne B. Suico

US to pull out troops from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama is expected on Wednesday to call for a major withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, with roughly 10,000 coming home to the US in less than a year, at a time when the public is become increasingly war-weary.

Obama

The phased drawdown is likely to start with 5,000 troops recalled this summer and an additional 5,000 by winter or spring 2012, according to a senior US defense official. Obama is also weighing a timetable for bringing home the 20,000 other troops he ordered to Afghanistan as part of his December 2009 decision to send reinforcements to reverse the Taliban's battlefield momentum.

The withdrawals would put the US on a path toward giving Afghan control of their security by 2014 and ultimately shifting the US military from a combat role to a mission focused on training and supporting Afghan forces.

Obama is to address the nation from the White House at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

The president reached his decisions a week after receiving a range of options from Gen. David Petraeus, the top US and Nato commander in Afghanistan.

Obama informed his senior national security advisers, including outgoing Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, of his plans during a White House meeting on Tuesday.

"The president is commander in chief," said spokesperson Jay Carney. "He is in charge of this process, and he makes the decision."

The Obama administration has said its goal in overseeing the Afghan war, now in its 10th year, is to block the Taliban from regaining and dismantle and defeat al-Qaida, the terror network that used Afghanistan as a training ground for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. As of Tuesday at least 1,522 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to an Associated Press count.

Roughly 100,000 US troops are in Afghanistan three times as many as when Obama took office. Even by drawing down the 30,000 more forces, there will still be great uncertainty about how long the remaining 70,000 troops would stay there, although the US and its allies have set Dec. 31, 2014, as a target date for ending the combat mission in Afghanistan.

A reduction this year totaling 10,000 troops would be the rough equivalent of two brigades, which are the main building blocks of an Army division. It's not clear whether Obama's decision would require the Pentagon to pull out two full brigades or, instead, a collection of smaller combat and support units with an equivalent number of troops.

If Obama were to keep the bulk of the 30,000 troops contingent in Afghanistan through 2012, he would be giving the military another fighting season to further degrade Taliban forces before a large withdrawal got started. AP

Ban Ki-moon gets 2nd term as UN chief

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly voted unanimously to give Ban Ki-moon a second term as secretary-general of the United Nations, praising him for strengthening the world body's role and visibility in difficult circumstances.

The 192-member assembly applauded loudly as it adopted a resolution giving the 67-year-old South Korean diplomat another five years at the helm of the UN. Assembly president Joseph Deiss banged his gavel and proclaimed Ban's selection by acclamation to a new term starting Jan. 1.

Ban announced earlier this month that he wanted a second term. He faced no opposition and was recommended by the Security Council for the new term last Friday. All regional groups at the UN endorsed him, and Ban's chairs joined in sponsoring the Assembly resolution.

Gabon's UN Ambassador Emmanuel Mbomate, the current Security Council president who introduced the assembly resolution, said Ban has "remarkable zeal" with all of positivity and independence" embodied. Ban's everyone to promote peace, justice and international security, "sometimes in particularly difficult and trying circumstances."

After the vote, the secretary-general was escorted to the podium where Deiss told him, "It is complex, difficult international environment, you have strengthened the role and the visibility of the United Nations by adopting reform measures, bombing exciting, innovative initiatives, and calling faithfully and constantly for respect for human rights, the rule of law and the other values rooted in our charter."

Ban took the oath of office from Deiss, raising his right hand and holding his left hand on the original UN Charter, which was flown to New York from Washington where it is kept in the US National Archives.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak telephoned Ban on Wednesday to congratulate him on his re-election.

Ban, a former foreign minister, thanked Lee for his support and said he is "overwhelmed" because he believes his re-election has contributed to improving South Korea's international status.

Ban has been criticized for his low-key style, his lack of charisma, and his failure to articulate human rights abuses in powerful countries, especially China and Russia.

But he has won praise for his commitment to climate change, nuclear disarmament and women's issues, his strong moral leading of peacekeeping missions in North Africa and the Middle East, and for supporting military interventions in Ivory Coast and Libya.

Calling for re-election a foregone conclusion, Ban pledged to keep leading the world body "as a harmonizer and as a bridge-builder" at times of global change. AP

In the world of high luxury, the tangible could be just as valuable as the intangible. Fancy, upscale homes, flashy sports cars, couture fashion and cutting-edge technology are no longer mere accessories; they are daily testaments of a person's taste, style and class, tastes encased in a life well-lived.

In the Milano Residences, the Philippines' first ever internationally branded designer and luxury condo, residents can bank in high luxury, with exquisite design seen in its amenity spaces, courtesy of Versace Home.

"When people own a unit at Milano, they're not just moving into a unit, they're moving into a lifestyle," says Bobbie Antonio, Century Properties Managing Director and Project Head of Milano Residences. "This is the first luxury condo in the country that will truly epitomize designer living at its foremost since, and the everyday experience of residents in the building, the amenities, and in their units will be extraordinary."

Extraordinary, indeed. Versace Home's elegant and timeless aesthetic is the visual centerpiece of the Milano Residences, from Milano's double-height grand lobby with polyurethane marble slabs exclusively designed by the brand for the condo, sunburst coffee tables made of crystal and steel, and the iconic Medusa head porcelain accents all the way to the swimming pool cabanas adorned with Italian marble vases filled and engraved with Versace's signature Greek fret.

The spa, fitness center, business center, library, juice bar, and other amenities likewise showcase Versace Home's penchant for impeccable detailing, using custom-made and high-quality fabrics, tiles and various materials.

Residents of the Milano may likewise opt to have their private residences, townhouses, 1- to 3-bedroom spaces, or Loggia units interior designed and accessorized with the Italian label's home furniture, tapestry, plates, silverware and décor. Samples of these exquisite interior inspirations may be seen in the property's showroom, unveiled early this year.

In his speech at the showroom's walking fashion show, Mr. Caio Giacomo Ferraris said "Our specific contribution as Versace Home will be the design of each single residence, preserving the uniqueness of each single space, and the planning of the communal zones, such as the lobby, library and fitness zones.

As a result, the Milano Residences will be the place for experiencing the exclusive, rich ingenious luxury and Italian style as offered by Versace, in the context of an extremely contemporary and dynamic city like Manila."

Visit the Milano Showroom at the 4F Pacific Star High-rise Building, Makati Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call 414-6847 and 09.17.1111.274. Visit www.milanoresidences.com.ph. Viewing is by appointment only.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **Cepalco spending** P2B in next 4 years /B6

Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

No new tax measures seen in 2012

Gov't expects lower budget gap of P286B next year

By Gemma V. Dumlao

MALACAÑANG will not push for new tax measures in 2012 despite increasing the national budget next year to P1.8 trillion.

An economic official told the Inquirer that the Aquino administration was confident that it could still lessen the budget deficit even without new taxes.

This was the agreement among state economic managers following a meeting of the state agency Development Budget Coordination Committee last Saturday, during which they discussed next year's proposed budget.

The proposed measure as increase of about 10 percent from the P1.64-trillion budget for 2011.

The proposed state budget envisages that the Bureau of Internal Revenue to raise its tax collection goal to P1.07 trillion, up from this year's P920 billion.

In turn, the Bureau of Customs would have to increase its revenue goal to P360 billion in 2012 from P320 billion this year.

According to the official, the government planned to follow through its programs to plug loopholes in tax administration with hopes of continued good results.

Budget Secretary Florencio. Abad yesterday said in a statement that spending on social services and on infrastructure would get a significant boost in the proposed 2012 budget, although he said absolute figures might be released only after the proposal has been approved.

"The social services sector will continue to receive the lion's share of more than 30 percent of the national budget, or more than P500 billion," Abad said.

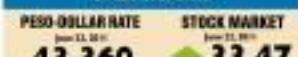
"To support escalated efforts

INCREASE B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
(June 22, 2011)
43.360

STOCK MARKET
(June 22, 2011)
33.47



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks extend gains

LOCAL STOCKS extended their gains yesterday as investors were emboldened by an overnight rally in Wall Street.

The market closure Philippine Stock Exchange index jumped another 33.47 points or 0.59 percent to finish at 4,295.25, hitting its the highest closing since the three-week local crisis escalation.

All counters were up, with the morning-cut and property counters advancing the most—by 1.3 percent and 1.32 percent, respectively.

Value turnover, however, was thinner at P6.8 billion above the absolute of P6 billion that the bloated volume the previous day. There were 84 advancers that outnumbered 62 decliners while 43 stocks were unchanged.

The rise of the index was led by PLDT (Smile) Power (Meralco) Pacific Investments, Petron Mining, SM, Ayala, DMCI, Ayala Land, SM Investments, Globe Mackay, Universal Robina and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The day's most actively traded were Alliance Mining and San Miguel Corp.

On the other hand, the day's index gains were hampered by some profit-taking in Metrobank, Manila Electric and PCEO.

Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial index surged 108.63 points or 0.91 percent to 12,180.01. Basic C. Dumlao

Globe G-Cash transactions hit P3-B mark

G XCHANGE INC. (GXI), the mobile commerce subsidiary of Globe Telecom, said its mobile phone banking transactions soared through G-Cash (GCash P2 P) for the first quarter of 2011, up 100 percent from P1.5 billion the year before, on the back of a steady increase in more rural banks as an option for commerce to serve more areas in the country's side.

Speaking before the 58th annual ordinary meeting of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), Globe head of international and business markets Gil Sierra said mobile commerce would continue to grow as rural banks increase the number of transactions to deliver financial services to underbanked and under-banked areas.

Last year, rural banks covered almost 100,000 transactions via G-Cash. These ranged from bills and loan payments to bank deposits and remittances. The transaction volume rose as 27 percent from 2009.

"Mobile phone banking has been proven to be an efficient technology solution for lower income segments, especially those living in the countryside with no access to banks. By pursuing the role of mobile banking services in partnership with the like-minded players Access to Banking Services (BASE), we are able to offer deposit, withdrawal, fund transfers, pay bill/disbursements, and remittance services to rural bank clients with just the use of a mobile phone and the speed of a text message," Sierra said.

Inflation seen peaking in October

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH banking giant HSBC sees inflation in the Philippines and other emerging Asian economies peaking by the third quarter and decelerating afterward, setting the stage for a rate easing.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas might also further ease its key interest rates notes for the rest of 2011 by a quarter percentage each from the current 6.5 percent for the overnight borrowing rate, HSBC country chief executive Tony Cripps said in a briefing yesterday.

Ayuna Mahendran, HSBC managing director and head of investment strategy for Asia, said China was almost at the end of its monetary tightening cycle as inflation is now now likely to taper off. "That will be a very bullish signal for emerging stock markets and bond markets," he said.

In the case of the Philippines, the peak of inflation was likely to be seen by October, added Benjamin Hollies, HSBC senior director and head of investment strategy for North Asia. "Inflation peaking is likely to be a precursor to equity market gains," he said.

Hollies explained that the peaking of inflation by October would be partly due to base effects from a year ago and the lagged effect of the monetary policy tightening measures put in previous months. HSBC estimated that it would take about six to nine months for monetary decisions to start taking effect.

This means that through the third quar-

INFLATION B2

ADB pushes 'green energy' projects

By Ailyn R. Barroa

WITH SOARING energy crisis looming, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is urgently pushing Asian nations, including the Philippines, to "take radical steps" to accelerate investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

In a speech during the 6th Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) yesterday ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda explained that clean energy and a "green growth" paradigm must become the new "business as usual."

"Clean energy has gone from being thought of as alternative energy to being embraced by mainstream thinking. Today, the concepts of green growth and a green economy, with clean energy as the heart of development, are being adopted widely, including the Asia and the Pacific region," Kuroda said.

"We are pleased to see that many developing Asian countries are now adopting a variety of clean energy initiatives. These will support a smooth transition to inclusive growth and environmentally sustainable development ... emissions will only continue to grow, unless swift and decisive action is taken to green our economies and promote inclusive growth," he told delegates yesterday.

To accelerate the transition to a clean energy regime, the ADB has launched the "Asia Climate Change and Clean Energy Venture Capital Initiative" to which it will inject $300 million into three venture capital funds that will provide early-stage financing support for new climate technology products.

"Our investment in these funds should leverage over $600 million from bilateral sources and institutional investors for promising start-ups. This early-stage support will help new low-carbon technologies become more competitive and affordable in the large economies base in developing Asia," Kuroda explained.

An example of more direct support to technology is a $400-million solar energy initiative, which aims to help build uncompetitive 80 billion, 3,000-megawatt portfolio of solar power in the region over the next three years.

"We are planning to establish the Asia Accelerated Solar Energy Development Fund to attract the needed investments by providing an enabling environment for commercial lending and private investment in the solar

ADB B2

Current account surplus narrows to $933M

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY posted a lower surplus in its current account in the first quarter as the narrower in the face of imported goods forced it to shell out more foreign exchange.

The current account ended with a surplus of $933 million in the first quarter, down 22 percent from $1.2 billion in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The current account shows the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign currencies. These flows are those that come in the form of remittances, exports, imports, payments for services and income such as profits.

Bangko Sentral Governor, director of the BSP's statistics department, said in a briefing that the country paid more for imports due to the increase in the cost of raw materials and intermediate goods that were sourced from abroad.

She added that Asian libraries to demand the reliance of their imports as they expected to sell more the island goods in the months ahead.

While growth in imports accelerated, the rise in exports decelerated following the debt problems in post-distributions such as the United States and many European countries that dampened demand for goods coming from emerging markets like the Philippines.

"Exports growth moderated during the quarter due mainly to lower shipments of electronics and machinery and transport equipment given the decline in both the demand for and export prices of semiconductors, camera and communication equipment," the BSP said in a statement.

Electronics, particularly those used as inputs for finished consumer products like computers and cellular phones, are the country's major export products.

The BSP said the country posted a trade deficit of $1.9 billion in the first quarter, up 36 percent from $2.8 billion in the same period last year.

Despite the decline in the surplus in the country's current account, the

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCY

June 22, 2011 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.8047	1.000000	43.8047
Japan	100 Yen	54.3018	1.239700	1.8417
United Kingdom	Pound	71.0355	1.620900	0.6172
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6099	0.128051	7.8071
Switzerland	Franc	51.0744	1.165800	0.8577
Canada	Dollar	45.1052	1.029900	0.9709
Singapore	Dollar	34.9099	0.797000	1.2547
Australia	Dollar	45.7649	1.044900	0.9569
Bahrain	Dinar	116.2134	2.653000	0.3769
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.6818	0.266700	3.7495
Brunei	Dollar	34.9099	0.797000	1.2547
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0052	0.000119	8401.0000
Thailand	Baht	1.4621	0.033380	29.9600
UAE	Dirham	11.9254	0.272200	3.6737
EU	Euro	63.0000	1.438300	0.6953
Korea	Won	0.0408	0.000931	1074.0000
China	Yuan	6.7583	0.154300	6.4810
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6099	0.128051	7.8071
India	Rupee	0.9743	0.022240	44.9600
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.2918	0.326200	3.0656
New Zealand	Dollar	34.5455	0.788500	1.2680
Sweden	Krona	6.7209	0.153400	6.5189
Taiwan	NT Dollar	1.5000	0.034200	29.2400

From page B1

energy market, we hope to encourage its rapid growth and bring solar energy nearer to grid parity," Kuroda said.

The Manila-based multilateral lender's support for renewable energy would also include the establishment of a pilot hub in the Philippines to be known as the "Regional Center to Facilitate Climate Technology Investments in Asia and Pacific."

"This pilot regional hub will address the issues of deploying climate technologies for mitigation and adaptation and attracting the necessary volume of financing that would enable Asia and the Pacific to shift to sustainable development pathways," Kuroda noted.

Current ...

From page B1

overall balance of payments (BOP) surplus still grew year-on-year in the first quarter to $3.49 billion from $1.28 billion a year ago.

This was credited to the accelerated increase in the surplus in the country's capital account. In contrast with the current account, the capital account covers inflow and outflow of foreign currencies in the form of direct investments and portfolio investments or "hot money" that usually found their way into local stocks.

MANSMITH

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2011 PUBLIC SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Marketing, Innovation and Strategy Seminars by Josiah Go

July 6-9, 2011 — 2nd Entrepreneurship Strategy and Innovation Bootcamp
July 12-13, 2011 — 16th Market-Driving Strategies
Aug. 4-5, 2011 — 82nd Marketing Strategy and Plans
Sept. 20-21, 2011 — 3rd Entrepreneurship Strategy and Innovation Bootcamp (Cebu)

Marketing and Service Execution Seminars by Chiqui Escareal-Go

July 5, 2011 — 6th Energizing Your Sales Teams Thru Positive Communication
July 27, 2011 — 14th Marketing on a Shoestring Budget
Aug. 4-5, 2011 — 66th Fundamentals of Marketing
Sept. 20-21, 2011 — 13th Delivering Outstanding Service

Sales and Negotiation Seminars by Rowen Untivero

July 7-8, 2011 — 4th Winning More Business Using Selling Science
Aug. 3-4, 2011 — 14th Negotiation Strategies and Secrets
Sept. 6-7, 2011 — 50th From Selling To Managing

New Program!

Business Strategy, Innovation and Execution for H.R. and G.D. Practitioners
by Josiah Go, Ric Abadesco and Chiqui Escareal-Go
July 5-6, 2011 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

Distribution and Key Account Management Seminars by Emilio Macasaet III

July 19-20, 2011 — Financial Metrics for Distributor Managers
Aug. 11-12, 2011 — Financial Metrics for Key Account Managers
Aug. 23-24, 2011 — Sales Territory Management
Sept. 13-14, 2011 — The 2nd 6-Step Strategic Sales Planning
Sept. 22-23, 2011 — Category Management

e-Marketing Seminars by Donald Lim

July 28, 2011 — 2nd Viral Marketing
Aug. 16-17, 2011 — 7th Digital Marketing Plan
Sept. 23, 2011 — Social Network Marketing

Brand Seminars by Benedicto Cid

Sept. 20-21, 2011 — 4th Brand Management DNA

Consumer Insighting by TNS

July 26-27, 2011 — Consumer Shopper Insighting by TNS

Mansmith Conferences & Forums

8th Mansmith Young Market Masters Summit
Learn Indispensable Lessons in Brand Management From The Young Marketing Rock Stars of 2011
September 16, 2011 (Thursday), 8:30 - 5:30 pm.
Hotel InterContinental, Makati City

For more information, please log on to www.mansmith.net, email us at info@mansmith.net, follow us in Facebook, text us at (+63) 919-97-180-69, or call (+63-2) 584-0000 / 412-0634.

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A world-class GOCC system in the making?

POINT OF LAW

FRANCIS T. LIM

ON JUNE 6, 2011, President Aquino signed into law Republic Act (RA) No. 10149, otherwise known as the GOCC Governance Act of 2011 (GOCC Act).

The new law was crafted by Sen. Franklin M. Drilon following several hearings conducted by the Senate as a result of the exposé on excessive perks and bonuses of the Philippine White Knight oil and beverage tycoon (PWK) made by then newly elected President Aquino in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The new law is envisioned not only to help cut government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) unnecessary and redundant expenses, but, more importantly, make them significant tools for economic development.

Coverage

Lest the new law be misunderstood to be limited to GOCCs in the form a stock/equity investment, it must be emphasized that it likewise applies to government financial institutions (GFIs), such as the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS), as well as government instrumentalities with corporate powers (GICPs) or government corporate entities (GCEs), such as the Philippine International Airport Authority (MIAA), Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and the PHIVOLCS.

For purposes of the GOCC Act, the term GOCC includes GICPs and GFIs as defined in the same law, subject to limited exceptions like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Both supporters and critics of the GOCC Act highlight the limitation on the compensation, per diems, allowances and incentives that may be granted to directors and officers of GOCCs. While these limitations are indeed noteworthy, it must likewise be stressed that RA No. 10149 is more than just construct to curtail excessive compensation.

An SEC-like commission

A primary feature of the GOCC Act is the creation of the Governance Commission for GOCCs, or the GCG, a five-member commission, which will act as the central advisory, monitoring and oversight body with sufficient power to formulate, implement and coordinate policies affecting GOCCs.

This newly created commission is effectively the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the GOCCs. But, unlike the SEC, the chairperson of the GCG will have the rank of Cabinet secretary, will sit on, but not be the overseer of finance and secretary of budget and management in ex-officio members. The fourth and fifth commissioners of the GCG will have the rank of an undersecretary.

Again, unlike the SEC which has been necessarily insulated and built over the years like a ping pong ball among the Office of the President, Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Finance, which has otherwise jurisdiction to attend to particular matters affected by the SEC's mandate, the GCG, by the GOCC Act mean by an ex-ante term that the GCG will be attached to the Office of the President.

The mandate of the law to the GCG is loud and clear. The GCG will adopt a governance corporate standard for GOCCs, which is similar to what the SEC has been implementing and enforced by the SEC. Interestingly, when the SEC first adopted the Code in 2002, some legal scholars raised issues on its legality citing the alleged lack of legal basis for the SEC to promulgate it.

Because of the express grant of power conferred on and by the GOCC law to them, the new commissioners of the GCG, indeed, the new law provides that the corporate governance standards for GOCCs must not be less rigorous than those currently required by the SEC or the Philippine Stock Exchange for listed companies, or those required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or the Insurance Commission for banks and insurance companies, respectively.

'Shape-up' or 'ship out' policy

While the GCG shares similar features with the SEC in respect of its regulatory functions over GOCCs, the law grants extensive powers and functions to the GCG that are not unique to the GOCC. Foremost of these is the power to reorganize, merge or streamline GOCCs and even recommend to the President their abolition or privatization.

The law provides for the standards by which the GCG will be guided in making such determination. In other words, the GOCC Act adopts a "shape up" or "ship out" policy for our GOCCs.

This "shape-up or ship out" policy is not limited to the GOCCs themselves; it applies likewise to the GOCCs' board of directors. Prior to the passage of the GOCC act, the term of office of GOCC directors and trustees varied, from one exercise to as long as seven years.

These directors and trustees clung to their coveted positions—often great to obtain in blessings of favor or patronage—as entitlements to sovereign rights. The GOCC Act changed under the new law. The law now defines of all appointive directors (i.e., those who are holding office not as ex-officio capacity) in GOCCs will be one-year, similar to the terms of office of directors in private corporations.

Only if such appointive director obtains a supermajority vote of three-fourths (or its equivalent) or higher in the immediately preceding term of the former, may such appointive director be nominated by the GCG for reelection to the board.

In short, the law has good riddance to "permanent-ming" and "undisputed-ming" seats in the GOCCs. It was this abuse that Senator Drilon assailed and members of President Andrew Jackson's Kitchen Cabinet, Francis Pepito Bisa, "Good riddance to his rubbish."

Conclusion

The most brutal of RA No. 10149 is indeed a historic achievement enshrined, as it is, to bring about a sea of change in the country's GOCCs. It is aimed at converting decades of poor evidences of corruption and inefficiency in our GOCCs' most importantly, it sets the stage for a world-class GOCC system that may be the envy of our peers in the region.

And the question is whether the new law is a seedling of reality for our GOCC system or will it just be another law that will hardly make a blip on the GOCC sector senses for failure to properly implement it.

Francis is the lawyer for the president and CEO of the Philippine Stock Exchange, is now the co-managing partner and head of the Corporate and Special Projects Department of ACCRALAW. He may be contacted at limm@accralaw.com.ph

Nenaco to cut costs to keep profit targets

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BRUNEI Reception (L). The (Nenaco), the country's largest shipping group, is looking to reduce costs this year amid rising fuel expenses that threaten to cut the company's profitability.

Newly appointed Monaco president and CEO Manuel M. Pallen said higher fuel costs coupled with competition from airlines remained as challenges, despite the company's position as an industry leader.

"After focusing on fortifying our position in the industry, we're not settling any capacity," he told reporters on Wednesday.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the annual shareholders' meeting of Monaco subsidiary Absolut Transport Systems Corp., which changed its name to AFS Consolidate Inc. The change of name reflects the exit of the Gilmelland Absolut family from the shipping business, which the group had not for more than a century.

Today, the company's operations are split into two main groups: shipping of cargo and passengers and value additions, mostly for logistics and supply chain services, under the brand Zico. Each make up about half of the group's total revenue.

Nelson said that passenger revenue would likely hit P1.6 billion by year-end, up by 25 percent from last year's P1.4 billion. The increase, however, would come mainly from the re-fleet of 870 ships that were "dry-docked" for maintenance for the most part of last year.

Nelson's predecessor Salvador Nepal, who still sits as chairman, said Nenaco's group net profit would likely reach P1.06 billion by 2011.

But Villanueva said management was currently "revising" this target, saying that fuel prices have put pressure on profit margins.

He said the company's passenger business, particularly for long-haul trips, would likely remain the weakest part of the three business due to the drop in air fare fares.

Freight revenues, which make up 7% percent of the company's shipping revenues, will stay strong thanks to the country's improved economic prospects that have led to increases in domestic trade.

"The economy grew by over 7 percent last year. We're looking on that," Villanueva said.

Inflation seen . . .

From page B1

ral, there would likely be some "mild" pullback in the Philippine stock market, Pedley said. It is during this "lull" period that investors should look into emerging markets like the Philippines, he said. This will be a platform for stocks to rally by the fourth quarter, he added.

AMRO's view was that oil prices have peaked and would not likely spike for crucial months or even years to come. The capture of Osama Bin Laden, Arjuna said, has somehow reduced the risk premium in the Middle East-North African region. "We now have more clarity on how the future will be," he said.

Arjuna said to ease concerns whether the Philippine Stock Exchange index could escape from this year the 5,000 record high seen late last year, he said this year would be "transition" but the "recasting" of the stock markets would likely be until next.

"Emerging market stocks will likely pick up again after September all the way till April and May next year and that's probably when the US Fed will initiate a hike in interest rates," Arjuna said.

No new . . .

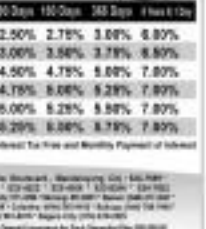
From page B1

for social protection, base education and public healthcare, the sector will receive a budgetary increase of 0 to 12 percent," he added.

Abad said infrastructure and other capital spending would be increasing by more than 20 percent, with the economic secretary noting it could be a quarter of the total budget or more than P400 billion.

Official aiming is set to submit to Congress a proposed 2012 budget by July 26.

Google top executives Jonathan Rosen, Product Marketing Manager and Derek Collett, Head of Marketing for Southeast Asia, PLDT SME Nation's VP and Head Ket Luna-Abelardo, SVP and Marketing Head Joel Asis Jr. and Zeta Gregan's Head Christian Gan



BAGUIO CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for [illegible] (BAC) invites interested [illegible] to participate in the bidding for the following [illegible]

Project Title	Approved Appropriation of Executive Officer at the Fire
Source of Work	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	[illegible]
Source of Funding	[illegible]
Bidding Documents	[illegible]
Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible]
Bid Security	[illegible]
Contractor's Eligibility Requirements	[illegible]
Contractor's Responsibilities	[illegible]
Contractor's Duties	[illegible]
Contractor's Project Manager and Other Key Personnel	[illegible]
Contractor's Undertaking	[illegible]
Bid Validity	[illegible]
Bid Opening	[illegible]
Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
Post-Qualification	[illegible]
Award of Contract	[illegible]
Signing of the Contract	[illegible]
Performance Security	[illegible]
Notice to Proceed	[illegible]
Liquidated Damages	[illegible]
Warranty	[illegible]
Payment	[illegible]
Variation Orders	[illegible]
Suspension of Work	[illegible]
Termination	[illegible]
Dispute Resolution	[illegible]
Prohibited Practices	[illegible]
Contract Agreement	[illegible]
Bid Documents	[illegible]
Bid Submission	[illegible]
Bid Opening	[illegible]
Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
Post-Qualification	[illegible]
Award of Contract	[illegible]
Signing of the Contract	[illegible]
Performance Security	[illegible]
Notice to Proceed	[illegible]
Liquidated Damages	[illegible]
Warranty	[illegible]
Payment	[illegible]
Variation Orders	[illegible]
Suspension of Work	[illegible]
Termination	[illegible]
Dispute Resolution	[illegible]
Prohibited Practices	[illegible]
Contract Agreement	[illegible]
Bid Documents	[illegible]
Bid Submission	[illegible]
Bid Opening	[illegible]
Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
Post-Qualification	[illegible]
Award of Contract	[illegible]
Signing of the Contract	[illegible]
Performance Security	[illegible]
Notice to Proceed	[illegible]
Liquidated Damages	[illegible]
Warranty	[illegible]
Payment	[illegible]
Variation Orders	[illegible]
Suspension of Work	[illegible]
Termination	[illegible]
Dispute Resolution	[illegible]
Prohibited Practices	[illegible]
Contract Agreement	[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Benguet
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION/COMPLETION OF SOLTU-PANOYOM BUILDING (NEW CITY HALL)

Reference No.: Contract No. ABB6-1169

1. The City Government of Tagum, through its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee, invites all eligible and interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the construction/completion of Soltu-Panoyom Building (New City Hall) with the following details:

Activity	Date/Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 17, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Deadline of Submission of Bid Documents	June 28, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Opening of Bids	June 28, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Post-bid Conference	July 5, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Eligibility Check, Evaluation and Post-Qualification of Bids	July 5-6, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Approval of Award	July 13-14, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Issuance of Notice of Award	August 1, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City
Signing of Contract	August 1, 2011	BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, Apokon St., Tagum City

2. The City Government of Tagum now invites bids for Procurement of Goods for the construction/completion of Soltu-Panoyom Building (New City Hall). Bidders should have completed, within 5 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

4. Bidders should have a minimum financial capability of [illegible] and shall submit the following documents:

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the City Government of Tagum and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] (P[illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

7. The City of Tagum reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to:

Atty. Richard G. Tumonong
BAC Chairman

[illegible] – June 16, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Municipal Rural Development Program I

CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO BID

Reference No. I-Contract No. TAGUM-I-1-1

REHABILITATION OF FRS. I. DELO ARRIAS ARRAIS FRS WITH CONCRETING TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE

Clarification No. B1-TAGUM-10
Loan No. 7548-PH

June 22, 2011

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Municipal Rural Development Program I, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan for payments under the Contract for Rehabilitation of FRS. I. Delo Arrias Arrais, Tagum City, Davao del Norte FRS with Concreting/Gravel (B1-TAGUM-10).

2. The City of Tagum, implementing agency of the Department of Agriculture, now invites bids from eligible bidders for Rehabilitation of FRS. I. Delo Arrias Arrais with Concreting/Gravel (B1-TAGUM-10) with Concreting/Completion of the Bridge is expected to 21 calendar days.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidders should have completed, within 5 years prior to the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, namely: the Bidder must have completed a single contract that is similar to this Project, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC adjusted by the Contract Completion Date and adjusted by the proposed Contract Duration. For this purpose, similar contracts shall refer to the Rehabilitation of FRS. I. Delo Arrias Arrais with Concreting/Completion of the Bridge; and the bidder must submit a valid PCAB License and Registration for the Specialty as required by the BAC.

4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] (P[illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

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Atty. Richard G. Tumonong
BAC Chairman

[illegible] – June 16, 2011

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF DAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Dapiz
(08) 62-5-[illegible]

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Dapiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract	:	CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPANSION OF DRIVER COMPLEX AT MAMBUSAC DISTRICT HOSPITAL, MAMBUSAC CAPIZ
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P14,000,000.00
Source of Fund	:	DOH-CY 2010 Health Facility Enhancement Program (Infrastructure)

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 23, 2011
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	July 28, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	July 27, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should possess all of eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Bidding documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P[illegible] Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (P 55,000.00).
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposal, financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the box/boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash and must be dropped at the BAC drop box on or before the closing date on July 27, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
5. BAC Committee reserves no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO F. APA-AP II
Chairman
BAC Committee

[illegible] – June 23, 2011

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE 6
PAVIA, PALO, LEYTE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

Please be informed that the conduct of public bidding for the procurement of 2011 Integrated Trucking and Handling Services for NFA Region VIII as published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on June 16, 2011, is hereby cancelled.

(Sgd.) **CRISTITUTO C. MANGAOANG**
Asst. Regional Director / RBAC Chairperson

[illegible] – June 16, 2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

[illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

[illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

[illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

[illegible]

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

[illegible]

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

[illegible]

FOR SALE:

[illegible]

BUY - SELL - PAWN
ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICE

[illegible]

BANK CERTIFICATE
VISA, etc.
Call: 4189771 / 0919 624 7140

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
Municipal Rural Development Program I

CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO BID

Reference No. I-Contract No. TAGUM-I-1-1

REHABILITATION OF FRS. I. DELO ARRIAS ARRAIS FRS WITH CONCRETING TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE

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2. The City of Tagum, implementing agency of the Department of Agriculture, now invites bids from eligible bidders for Rehabilitation of FRS. I. Delo Arrias Arrais with Concreting/Completion of the Bridge is expected to 21 calendar days.

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4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of [illegible] (P[illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The City of Tagum reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

7. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. RICHARD G. TUMONONG
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, CP Building, Apokon Road, Tagum City
(084) 216-2961

Signature of the BAC Chairman or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

[illegible] – June 23, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Regional Office No. XI
[illegible]
Tel/Fax No.: (082) 245-5109
June 16, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporation/organization has filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Applicant/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Work Description of Foreign National
1.	[illegible]	Mr. Manuel [illegible]	President
2.	[illegible]	Mr. Sonny Pandi [illegible]	Technical Supervisor
3.	[illegible]	Mr. Sonny Pandi [illegible]	Technical Supervisor

If you have any information objection to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with this Regional Office.

ATTY. ROLANDO G. MARTINEZ, MA. ED/RO III

[illegible] – June 23, 2011

get hired www.jobmarketonline.com

"Let me live for others, for God." — P.P. Navarro

REV. MSGR. FEDERICO V. NAVARRO

Has joined the Creator on June 21, 2011
at the age of 88

His brothers **Crispin** (†) and **Adoracion Ignacio Attardem** (†) and **Emer Ltm. Encabo** & **Elenita Ltm. Ong**, **Arsenio H.**, and **Ana Ignacio Navarro**, his sisters **Celedina**, **Nr. Virginia**, **FWA** (†), his nephews and nieces request the prayers (number to pray for the eternal repose of his soul).

His remains lie in state at the following:

DATE	PLACE
June 22-23	**La Funeraria Paz La Loma** C-3 Road, Calamba City
June 23	**St. Joseph Parish Church** Juan Luna St., Guadalupe, Forbes, Manila
June 24	**Mary Help of Christians Parish Church** 149 Road 5A, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City

Interment will be at Jose D. Lina Memorial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna after the 7:00 A.M. concelebrated Holy Mass at Mary Help of Christians Parish Church, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City.

José Roman Llamado Azores

José "Pepe" Azores, of San Pablo City, Laguna, died on June 16, 2011, at age 97.

He was born on February 28, 1914 to **Nicolas Azores** and **Crispina Llamado**, the second of five children. He attended primary and secondary schools in San Pablo City, continued higher education in Japan, then graduated with a degree in Electronic Engineering from Indiana Technical Institute, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA. He held a private pilot's license from Love Field Flying Academy in Love Field Airport, Dallas, Texas.

He married **Elena Rubagale Escudero** on January 1, 1940. They had seven children: **Aida**, **Jose Jr.** and wife **Hedy**, **Elma**, **Christina**, **Nicholas** and wife **Gigi**, **Silvia**, and **Ava Crispina**. They were also blessed with 14 grandchildren: **Bobby Sean**, **Anna**, **Angela**, **Janus**, **Monique**, **Elmo**, **Jesse**, **Nicole**, **Jessica**, **Scott**, **Sarah**, **Veronica**, **Giselle**, and **Alana**. And last but not least, 12 great-grandchildren.

The ancestral Azores home had been his residence all his life and he had a home in Dallas, Texas for 5 decades. He was a local motorcycle icon until his 80s. He was the founder of the Two Wheelers Club of San Pablo City. He was a 32 degree Mason of Malinaw Lodge #25, San Pablo Bodies A. & A. S. R.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elena, sister Sinforosa Gomez, brothers Felix and Antonio Azores and an infant sister.

The best legacy he left his children is instilling in all of them, at an early age, reading and curiosity for the whole world. As a result, all his children had travelled and lived overseas.

Masonic memorial service was held on Monday, June 20, 2011, at the family residence. A private family interment was held in the Old San Pablo Cemetery, Azores Mausoleum on Wednesday, June 22, 2011.

CLASSIFIEDS

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

ITEM	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bond Requirement	Delivery Period
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	[illegible]
2. Pre-bid Conference	[illegible]
3. Opening of Bids	[illegible]
4. Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
5. Post-Qualification	[illegible]
6. Notice of Award	[illegible]

RED CROSS 143 CABUYAO BRANCH HOLDS THEIR 1ST TEAMBUILDING AT ALGON RESORT

Red Cross 143 Cabuyao Branch—Municipal Level held their 1st Teambuilding at Algon Resort on June 11, 2011. Headed by Executive Sidro Hernandez Jr. with Sarah Tolores, Jory Bravacruz, Rodel Gutierrez and Ahmed Barreng. For inquiries regarding facility rental for your teambuilding / retreat / seminars / reunions, please call (02) 531-4381 or (049) 502-2397 / (0917) 555-9835. Please look for Mrs. Cel Bonadero. You may also visit our website at www.algonresort.com.ph.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
ALABANG/ PROVINCIAL BRANCH

Death Notice

Leonora (Nora) Ordonez Galler

January 19, 1928 - June 19, 2011

Her beloved family request relatives & friends to pray for her eternal repose.

Body lies in state at her residence: 1081 Ocdin St., Malibay, Pasay City.

Interment on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at Sgt. Heinze Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.

Eloisa P. Reyes

June 8, 1927 - June 14, 2011

Wife of the late **Col. Lorimer N. Reyes**
She is survived by her children **Lowell Reyes**, **Lorna Reyes Trillanes** & **Lynn Reyes Palomar.**

Burial will be on June 25, 2011 at Dipolog Catholic Cemetery.

Please pray for her.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

More Classified Ads

Province of Misamis	A9
Province of Negros Oriental (a)	A17
Province of Negros Oriental (b)	A17
CHED	A19
Dagdal Alloy	A25

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." *(2 Timothy 4)*

HIS EMINENCE GAUDENCIO B. CARDINAL ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

and

the auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila, honored brothers & sisters in law **Faustino & Elenita nee Ong**, **Ester nee Cito-Sebastian** (†) and **Arsenio, Jr.**, beloved sons: **Cinabina**, bereaved nephews, nieces, relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. FEDERICO VALDEZ NAVARRO

Retired priest of the Archdiocese of Manila

who passed away on June 21, 2011 at the age of 88.

Monsignor Navarro's previous assignments were as follows: Vicar Forane – Diocese of Santa Ana, Manila; Parish Priest – Mary Help of Christians Parish, Mujenar, Kalookan City; Saint Joseph Parish, Guadalupe, Forbes, Manila; Our Lady of the Wilmington Global Parish, Pasay City; Diocesan City, West Parish Priest; Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Riverside, Pulanco, Manila; and Assistant Parish Priest – Saint Joseph Parish, Quezon District, Quezon City.

His remains will lie in state at the following parish churches:

June 23 (Thursday) — Saint Joseph Parish
2071 J. Luna Street, Guadalupe, Forbes, Manila

June 24 (Friday) — Mary Help of Christians Parish
149 Road 5A, Murphy, Kalookan City

Interment will be at the Novarro Family Mausoleum, La Loma Cemetery, Kalookan City immediately after the 7:00 A.M. Funeral Mass on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the Mary Help of Christians Parish, Murphy, Kalookan City.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

BUSINESS

Cepalco spending P2B in next 4 years

Capex lower than sought, higher than previous level

By Jerry R. Rivera

CAGAYAN ELECTRIC Power and Light Co., the third largest power distributor in the country, is investing about P2 billion over the next four years to further improving the distribution system within its franchise area.

According to the Energy Regulatory Commission, the approved capital expenditure spending of Cepalco for the third regulatory period (July 2011 to June 2015) was slightly lower than the P2.14 billion it had sought. The ERC disallowed some of its proposed projects.

Still, the period's capex is higher than the P1.118 billion in the second regulatory period, according to the final determination issued by the ERC.

The reduced budget, the ERC said, would result in lower distribution charges for Cepalco consumers over the next four years, under the performance based regulation (PBR) scheme.

The ERC approved distribution charges for regulatory year 2012 (July 2011 to June 2012) averaged P1.2491 per kilowatt hour, lower than its system average charges of P1.3705 per kWh.

Cepalco's original application, however, sought higher distribution charges ranging from P1.5296 per kWh to as high as P1.8139 per kWh.

"The decreasing price trend set the stage regulatory period for Cepalco is a good sign and that the benefit of adopting the PBR rate-setting methodology is now taking effect. The PBR has put pressure on the utility to improve their systems and be more efficient in their operations," said ERC chair Zenaida G. Cruz-Ducut.

With the ERC decision, Cepalco can now translate the approved charges of P1.2491 per kWh for 2012 into rate schedules for its different customer classes and file its application with the ERC for approval.

Upon approval of these revised rate schedules, Cepalco can then start charging the lower rates to its customers.

Cepalco has more than a hundred thousand residential, commercial and industrial customers in its franchise area covering Cagayan de Oro and the municipalities of Tagoloan, Villanueva and Jasaan, all in Misamis Oriental.

Rustan Supercenters, Inc. Successful Maiden P3.5 Billion Corporate Note Issuance Arranged by ICCP

(L-R) Shopwise VP for Finance Rommel Reina; ICCP President and COO Conrado A. Gloria Jr.; Shopwise President & CEO Bienvenido Tantoco III; ICCP Group President for Financial Services William M. Yulo, Jr. and Shopwise COO Patrick Go.

Rustan Supercenters Inc. (RSCI), operator of the pioneering Shopwise hypermart store chain and Rustan's supermarkets and Supermarket Incorporated (SI), CEO Patrick Gotiaco, and VP for Finance Rommel Reina. The ICCP Group was represented by its Group President for Financial Services William M. Yulo, Jr. and ICCP President & COO Conrado A. Gloria, Jr.

In his message, Mr. Gloria mentioned that the Offering, aside from being a historic transaction for RSCI, was also catalytic as it paves the way for RSCI's expansion and strengthening of its competitive positioning in Philippine retail. It further marks a strong support from the financial markets for the Tantoco Group.

On the other hand, Mr. Tantoco cited the contribution of ICCP in the transaction - from proposing the idea of a corporate note of such magnitude up to its successful execution. He also thanked the Noteholders and cited the contribution of BDO Capital as Joint Lead Arranger and SB Capital as Co-Lead Arranger.

RSCI is majority owned by the Tantoco family.

Beth Lee quits UMC, Campi posts

By Abigail L. Ho

ELIZABETH LEE, one of the most recognizable faces in the automotive sector, has resigned from her posts as chief operating officer of Universal Motors Corp. and president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

In a letter sent to the media yesterday, Lee said her decision to leave the company and the industry was part of her personal search for growth.

"I see my stint at Campi and UMC as an excellent chapter in (my) corporate life. But like a good play that deserves an encore, a new chapter will open up for me (to) different setting, maybe with a different set of players, and probably with even greater challenges," she wrote.

"My sentiments from UMC and resignation from Campi were part of my discernment process to give me the much needed space and time to consider other opportunities and pursuits outside Manila," she added.

In her almost 12 years in UMC, she helped steer the company to become a significant player in the local auto sector, despite the limited number of models UMC was selling in the market.

Lee considered the "Go Gas, Go Gastronomic" program, which aimed to use the Metro Manila subway to promote entrepreneurship in the country, as one of the company's greatest achievements.

Today, Nissan Urvan units are popularly used as "mega canis" that ferry passengers to and from various points in the country. The strongbox is also a popular choice among those in the vehicle rental and armed face businesses.

As president of Campi, she helped advance the local industry's advocacy to spur investments in local assembly, ban the importation of used vehicles and curb vehicle smuggling.

ALL-NEW picanto

The "best pic" for the discerning first-time car buyer

my best pic

Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), the exclusive distributor of Kia Motors in the Philippines, recently gave young drivers' dreams the "green light" at the Kia Global City in Port Bonifacio, Taguig.

The all-new Kia Picanto was designed especially for the first-time car buyer. Every detail of this car, every specification was been designed with one end in mind: that these first-timers take one look at this car and say to them, "this is My Best Pic".

Seen for the very first time by a select group of motoring media members, in a private show around by JC Cuadrado, the new Kia Picanto hit the road with all wheels spinning. It embodies the spirit of a new generation of driven, young drivers.

"The new Kia Picanto is poised to be 'My Best Pic,' the best and most sensible, value-laden automotive choice to carry them through their desired styles of life."

Introduced as "My Best Pic," the new sub-compact is poised to give the best value to intelligent, driven savvy young people set to buy their first, brand-new cars.

Jose Domingo Francisco Bello and Bella Cruz, 18, of Malolos, Bulacan, at Columbian Autocar Corporation's Kia Global City, Taguig, with the All-New Picanto.

The Kia Picanto made its online debut in May, and was well-received by the motoring and business media for being the car's young personality.

For a punch that grows upon "makisamero," the new Kia Picanto fortifies just a new "look". Its distinctive characters are enhanced by a lively European-inspired style stamped on it. A more aggressive, sporty, heart-bumper design provides a "face" for Kia's new "baby" for long at 3,595 mm, mostly plastic yet of solid, compact build. A new ventilated wiper clears the back view, helping you preserve into a compact space as carefully. There's enough room for the driver and passenger, with seating for five (5). Despite having "only" four rear seats, and wide and extra front buttress, give you options for making space. From all this, it's clear that the new Kia Picanto has a lot to offer as "My Best Pic."

The dynamic new look embodies the packing drive provided by the new Kia Picanto's 1.0-liter, in-line, 12-cylinder Kappa MPI engine. The tiny powerhouse produces 68ps at 6,000rpm and 95Nm of torque at 4,000rpm. It produces a new CO2 emission level, aligning itself well with the environmentally conscious. Savings in gas money are enabled by its fuel economy, making it an excellent investment for this year thrifty, financially-savvy young motorist.

These automotive attributes make the new Kia Picanto, "My Best Pic" among the young, well-informed and value-minded.

Ultimately, the new Kia Picanto is a car for a new generation of enlightened young drivers. These young car buyers know what good value is, and tailors practically with their passions. Individuals within this market have the opportunities to spin tales and discern what matters most to them. They are upwardly mobile, goal-oriented, know what they want and how to get them. For each of them, the new Kia Picanto is poised to be "My Best Pic," the best and most sensible, value-laden automotive choice to carry them through their desired styles of life.

The new Picanto makes Jose Domingo Francisco Bello and Bella Cruz, 18, of Malolos, Bulacan, at Columbian Autocar Corporation's Kia Global City, Taguig, with the All-New Picanto.

Launch night at the Kia Global City gave members of the motoring media a positive first impression of the new Kia Picanto, which spends 10% of the new sub-compact. For the media representatives in respect, up close. Live musical entertainment via was provided by Jhaira Ong, and enthusiastic addresses were delivered by CAC's top executives.

For more information about the new Kia Picanto and the My Best Pic, just log on to the Kia Picanto microsite, and visit the Kia Picanto Facebook page at facebook.com/kiapicanto for a chance to win premium items.

KIA MOTORS

BULACAN STYLE pochero

LIFESTYLE Food

'Sinampalukang manok,' 'alugbati' salad, 'paksiw na pata'—Chef Jessie presents her native Bulacan

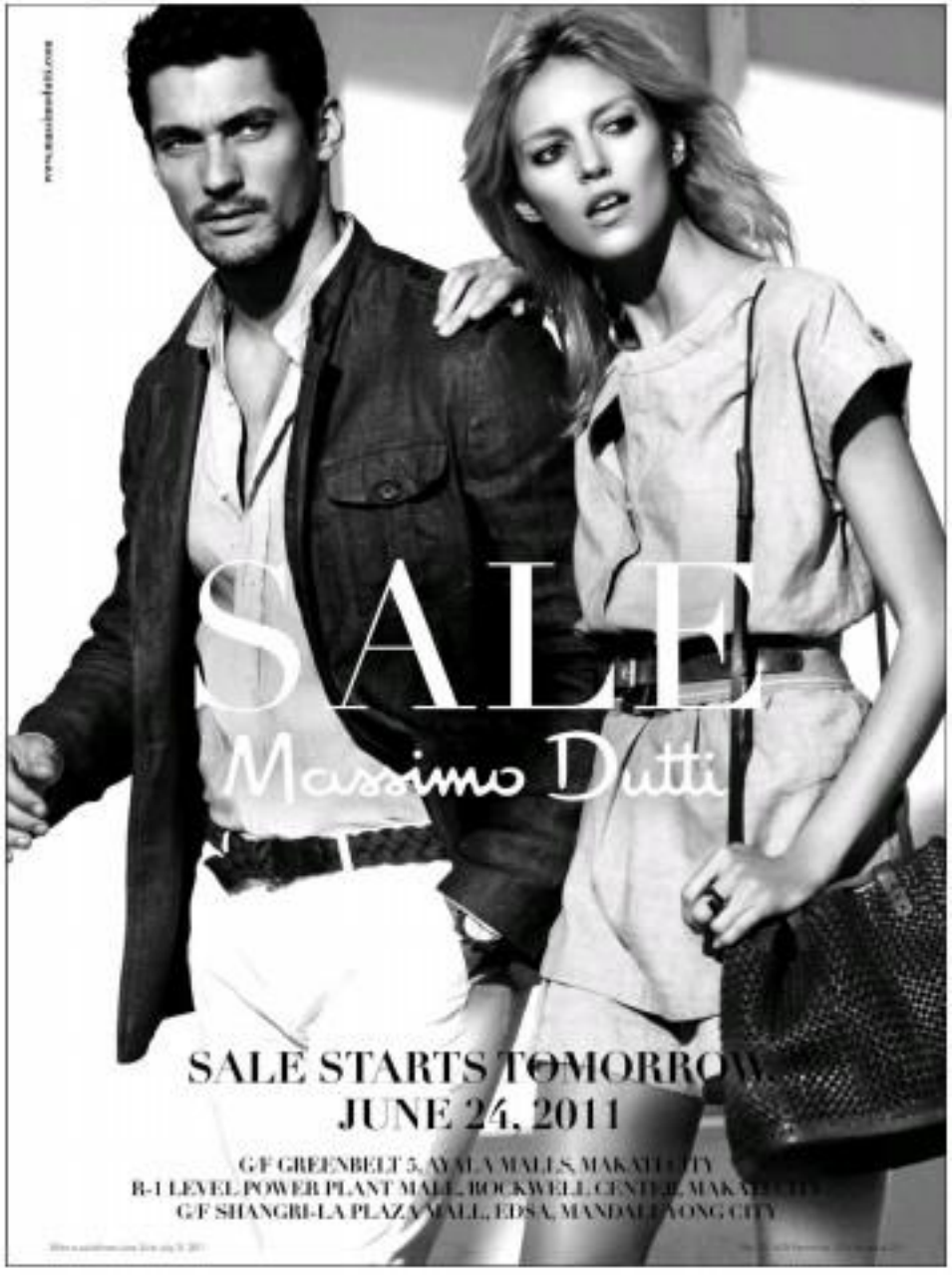
Sincioco whips up gastronomic nostalgia at Edsa Shangri-La's Heat resto

By Virgie Baga-Reyes

SNIPPY a nostalgic gastronomic journey with chef extraordinaire Jessie Sincioco as she returns to her native Bulacan. This food trip is part of Edsa Shangri-La Manila's ongoing (until June 25) tribute to Filipino cooking, featuring Luzon-focused specialties at its buffet restaurant, Heat.

Sincioco revives the good old way of cooking, with ingredients harvested right before they are cooked in *palayok* (clay pots) and open fire. She recreates a fare that reminds her of her family in Bulacan with as no-nonsense approach to flavors, taste, aroma and presentation.

Hearty dishes such as sinampalukang manok (chicken cooked with tamarind), *mesiram ilocod* (malakit), *paksiw na pata* (a way to make kalahi's eg-ogling (pork leg and knuckles with banana blossom), and pinapaak na *ginataan* at bayong mustasa (fish



The best food options from Italy, India, Spain, Germany–in Manila

By Abe T Vergara

RUSTAN'S SUPERMARKET continues its 40-year tradition of providing its customers the best food products sourced from the world over with its ongoing food festival dubbed "Wonders of the World."

True to its name, organizers, led by Dennis Tantoco, president of Rustan's Supercenters Inc., are featuring not just one but four countries in numerous food festivals, which kicked off last week with Italy and would culminate in October with Germany (Oktoberfest).

The two-other featured countries are India and Spain. Each festival will run for six weeks. Apart from special promotional displays, food products from the featured country will be showcased not only with other items on regular shelves.

And what sets this fun-to-eat festival apart from Rustan's previous efforts to offer its customers gourmet food options?

"I think it's the approach of cuisine versus individual products," said Tantoco. "We're not selling the items at single products or by just as ingredients to make particular cuisines."

The ongoing Italian food festival, for instance, features a wide selection of pastas, sauces, herbs and spices as well as some of that country's delicious and aromatic dinners like prosciutto-toppings.

Exotic India will have its chance to shine, as Rustan's features Indian spices and condiments, among other ingredients, a few weeks from now.

With the growing popularity of Indian restaurants in the country, including iconic names like Bombay Dreams and those Bollywood extravaganzas, Tantoco is confident that Filipinos are more than ready to explore Indian cuisine.

Spain, with its seafood and other premium items like olives and prosciutto hams, will be next.

Tantoco hinted of "Wonders of the World" fair week with a grand launch at New World Hotel's main ballroom in Makati.

Using products the Rustan's team, led by its chief chef Bob Besmonilla, personally sourced from abroad, the hotel's chefs whipped up four buffet-style food stations brimming with featured dishes, including sausages and sauerkraut from Germany and hamon (cured meat from India.

"We were fortified to say our customers, we noticed there were so many dishes and food exhibits the world over," said Tantoco. "The ones we're featuring here are those that kept coming up in our discussions with them. But they clearly wanted more than what's already available locally."

THREE GENERATIONS. Alex Tantoco, Rustan's chairy former Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., the family patriarch, and Dennis Tantoco, president of Rustan's Supercenters Inc.

ARUGULA. Cherry Tomato and Parmesan Salad

BASMATI Rice Salad with Cauliflower

MARICEL Ro, VP for marketing, Rustan's Supercenters Inc., and sister Cristeene Tantoco, Dennis's better half, marketing director of Peyton Rose Reserve

TUSCANY White Bean Salad

selection of sausages and hams.

Wide selections

"Not a few of these items are known to our customers," said Frances Yu, Rustan's Supercenters Inc.'s VP for marketing. "But through this food fest, we're providing them with wider selections and brands they don't normally find locally."

In fact, some of Rustan's supplies, particularly in Italy, hail from family-owned businesses that have been around for generations. They're more than retail, and famous, but have a well-loved tradition.

"Our food fests are limited to packaged foods, which anybody can bring here," he said. "It also includes fresh and natural foods that can't be shipped in commercial. We have to fly them in."

And should some of these products prove to be a hit among patrons, Rustan's would put them in its permanent assortment. To make the experience complete, Rustan's will also be stuffing the goodies in gift baskets ready to suit different budgets in time for the holidays.

A minimum purchase worth P800 at any of Rustan's Supercenter branch entitles the customer to one raffle ticket. And for a minimum accumulated purchase worth P8,000, the lucky coupon holder can get a free recipe book featuring each of the country's well-loved and popular dishes.

"When you travel for pleasure, you don't usually go to just one place," said Yu. "Once you start, you can't stop. Through this food fest, we want our customers to travel metaphorically and in real-time from their homes."

Rustan's also began staging cooking demos featuring authentic Italian cuisine by renowned chefs in select supermarket branches—July 2, Rustan's Power Plant Mall and July 9, Rustan's Makati.

Grand launch

Tantoco hinted of "Wonders of the World" fair week with a grand launch at New World Hotel's main ballroom in Makati.

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"We were fortified to say our customers, we noticed there were so many dishes and food exhibits the world over," said Tantoco. "The ones we're featuring here are those that kept coming up in our discussions with them. But they clearly wanted more than what's already available locally."

'Cuchinillo sisig,' tender beef belly, plus yummy Japanese fusion

I WAS told that when you marry someone, you have an idea what kind of influence you will have on each other. I married into a family of artists, stylists and interior designers because of this. I have learned something about myself. Never wear my personal taste when it comes to these things. I am happy to leave them up to my wife Tessa and the family.

Why? Because when I was still single and living alone in Ecology Village, I decided to renovate, decorate and arrange my room. I placed my tatami in what I thought was the best location and I learned what a big mistake that was the first time I slept on my bed. The cold air blew directly at me. I was sniffling every morning.

I also remember buying this beautiful solid wood sculpture from Baguio. It was supposed to be a chair in the figure of a hand. Its open palm served as the seat and the upright fingers served as backrest. Directly underneath this palm were my dupely legs of a male woman kneeling down, breasts and all. To me, it was the most beautiful piece of art in my room. I was very proud of it.

After becoming a part of this family, I slowly realized my most beautiful piece of furniture was actually the most bulky item I had ever acquired in my life. Eventually, it also became the most difficult piece to hide, since the monstrous piece was not only huge but weighed a ton.

This piece was a turning point in my life. I promised myself that when it came to decorating, I never again would I trust my own taste.

Foodie paradise

But food is where I come in. My Dutch family loves to try new cuisine, while my Shirokawa family loves good, simple and traditional home-cooked meals. I love our Mondays meals because no one complains with my appetite. Well, that is, until my brother-in-law

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Carlos brought his new bride into the family—Charina, a full-time foodie.

When they were newlyweds, they lived in New York City where Carlos was finishing his master's degree in HVAC. Every time I would see this couple, I would see the transformation in my brother-in-law through the stories he would tell about their culinary adventures in the Big Apple. They dug into everything—from crispy, subtle spaghetti, coffee, Dominican Cheesecake and Macaroni, to foie gras, pastrami, bagels, Nokz, River Lager steaks, Ethiopian cuisine and many others. How York, in short, is a foodie-paradise.

After their stint in the Big Apple, the couple returned home to Manila. Here, they continue to discover new places. They have become one of my sources for interesting dining places to check out.

I love it when either of them celebrates a birthday. It is certain it will be in a place with fantastic food, and one I have never been in.

Last year, it was at Makisu and Jap's Cantikwon Cavalry, where I tried Cuchinillo Sisig and Tender Beef Belly for the first time. I forgot my name and others I read. That's got to be two of the best tasting dishes I have ever encountered.

I don't remember what Yamada Nishiki is, but I'm sure it was also good

Typical fare—with a twist

Cokey's last birthday was an invitation to a Japanese restaurant along Greenhills Mall, Makati. I was told I would find it right beside Shanish Kawadar but until a Japanese fast-food place called Mango. I was very excited, for I had never been to this place and didn't know what to expect.

The place was dark, with an open kitchen filled with busy Japanese-attired chefs. I noticed a lot of Japanese diners. Promising. I thought to myself.

The dishes were typical fare in Japanese restaurants but presented differently. The sushi came in rolls, which I thought were outstanding. The sashimi was of superior quality. We also had sea urchin—orgasmic and delicious Tuna Carpaccio. I don't remember what Yamada Nishiki is, but I'm sure it was also good.

Everything we ate was delicious! Cokey and Charina, both Cebu and Charina. Other dishes we had were a standing Mozzarella risotto, Chicken Meatballs, "Iced" steak, a salted caramel Bailey's concoction, Chili Mint Squid and Tahitian. I enjoyed everything and made a mental note to explore other interesting looking items on the menu.

I have curious about some of the items on the menu, but they all made sense when I saw the name of the place, Margarita Japanese Fusion. Restaurant 107 BGI Market Overlook Mall, Legaspi Village, Makati City, tel. 894-1950. You have to pay to this place a visit.

These days, I stick to my love of food and everything and anyone associated with it, and leave the good taste for decorating to my in-laws. Whenever we have a get-together, guess what we eat with them?

Definitely not decorating.

Happy eating!

E-mail: sandydaza@yahoo.com

'Sinampalukang manok,' 'alugbati' salad . . .

From page C1

cooked in banana leaves with pickled mustard greens) are just some of the comfort food she grew up with and now wants to share with guests.

"I came up with a selection that I was really fed with in my younger years in Negar," says Sinidoco, who recalls how every weekend she and her brothers would gather clams and mudfish by the river and cook them.

She belongs to a family of cooks. Her father and grandfather were farmers, while her grandmother and aunt prepared their home-cooked meals...salad, soup, meat and vegetable dishes and dessert.

Family affair

Since the food grants a glimpse into a country's traditions, Sinidoco has involved her whole family in preparing the regional dishes.

"Because most of these recipes have been enjoyed in, our family for generations," says Sinidoco.

Her brother Bro Sinidoco and niece, chef Abby Sinidoco, prepare the hot dishes and salad for the Pinoy buffet, while desserts are handled by sister Mary Sinidoco-Munoz and sister Nimfa de Guzman (also the pastry chef at Chef Jessie Rockwell Club and Top of the Grill, most familiar Sinidoco Dy is the consultant for the entire menu, ensuring that only traditionally cooked Filipino favorites with farm-fresh ingredients are served.

Each dish has its own story to tell. For instance, the kinilaw uses pure tup-tuping (freshwater fish) as the base instead of the usual tanigue. It reminds Bro Sinidoco of his childhood days.

"The crispy, lip-smacking Bicolano kebon is also a family specialty and is one of the most sought after on the buffet spread.

"I remember it was my uncle who would cook the kebon for us," recalls Sinidoco. "It's only now that I realized that the goodness of the kebon has something to do with how you clean the pig, inside and out. My uncle would choose a good pig, clean it thoroughly, season it with salt and boil it until it is quite done. Afterwhich you get the meat, it's so delicious."

Sinidoco's Bolicano kebon has crispy roasted skin. It has its herbs or spices or flavor is.

"There's a logic to it. It's like when you grill a steak and you only put salt and pepper. It will still taste good so long as you have good meat," she adds.

Homemade sauce

Lechon sauce is homemade, too. Her Nonang Sapa (Odelia) makes it for them. After dangle

SAPAL-LAHAI

ALUGBATI with Kinuang Puti

SINIDOCO family. Marcy Sinidoco, Norman de Guzman, Jacob Gimiano, Abigail Sinidoco, Rex Sinidoco and Sandra Sinidoco-Dy (in chair)

tomatoes and onions.

Native desserts like sapin-sapin, Bukayan-style, ginataang kilo-kilo, pastillas, turon or halo-halo complete the menu.

Sinidoco's dishes are also available for take-out and delivery.

Chicken Tinola

1 whole chicken, about 1-1.25 kg
2 tbsp ginger juice
2 tbsp virgin coconut oil
3 tbsp fish sauce (patis)
25 g ginger, cut into strips
68 g sliced shallots
½ tsp ground black pepper
500 g green papaya, cut into ½-inch slices
1.5 litres rice washing
24 g all leaves

Drain and cut chicken into bite-size pieces. Marinate with ginger juice and 1 tbsp patis. Set aside. Heat the coconut oil in a skillet and sauté strips of ginger and sliced shallots. Add marinated chicken.

Season with black pepper and the remaining fish sauce. Cover the skillet and cook the chicken until almost tender. Add the green papaya and simmer for a while. Add the rice washing. Bring to a boil. Lower heat. Allow to simmer until chicken and papaya are cooked and tender. Just before serving, add the oil leaves.

Tomato cream soup, Spanish 'callos,' baked stuffed chicken–a full catered meal at P360

I FIRST HEARD of The Red Chef and Events Specialist from Vivian Go, a friend and co-parent at Xavier school.

I knew her to be very nutritious. When Vivian recommends, I make it a point to take mental notes for future reference. And was one of those she mentioned according to her, its food was delicious, the setup fancy and the price affordable.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aquino

The Red Chef and Events Specialist is owned and managed by two gentlemen, with complementing expertise. Chef Mike Perdicia is a hotelier-resource graduate. After college, he studied culinary arts, a passion that according to him was "beaming in the head since he was a kid."

I first talked Chef Mike three years ago to cater for me. I must admit, the setup was pretty and the food decent.

In 2009, Chef Mike put up The Red Chef with Aphat Martinez Jr., a certified public accountant. Matthew considers the catering business as an outlet for his creativity. It is also a (sustainable) in his being a true-blue foodie.

His forte, it seems, is flair for table setting. It is about going the extra mile, that magical finishing touch, that makes all the difference—a feather here, a playing card and pokers chips for the poker-playing birthday celebrator there; huge purple bows on black-and-white, toy-strewn tables for a child.

It is all in the details, and Xavier still relies the details come with a friendly price tag.

This is why Red is slowly but surely making a mark in the catering landscape. I will not be surprised if, in a few years, it will be a major player.

Three weeks ago, chef Mike catered for the graduation party of my now-former nephew, Ken Perez. His food was very good. The callos melted in my mouth. Its seafood chowder was rich and tasty, and the chicken favorite!

Clearly, Red scored a grand slam. Though the party had to be moved indoors due to the weather and some of the drama was cancelled, the food measured up to expectations

CHEF Mike Perdicia and Aphat Martinez Jr.

and got a humbo up from everyone.

Chef Mike's cuisine has gone up another three- my last encounter with it, and it now sports a richer, more seasoned. What's like the chef he has now received nine—mature, then, better.

The Red Chef menus start at P360 per head, but according to chef Mike, they work based on the client's budget. Believe me, there was also to please and are no ruse to callos.

Just to give you an idea, a sample menus at P368 includes Tomato Cream Soup, Spanish Callos, Baked Stuffed Chicken with Bolognese Sauce, Baked Fish with Olives and Tomatoes and Garlic Sauce, Aglio Olio Pasta with Garlic and Shitake Mushrooms, Steamed Rice, Mixed Fruits Topped with Crème Brulle, Iced Tea.

So book The Red Chef for your next event. Call Aphat at Chef Mike at 0927 2424836 or 0917 5140747).

Fresh oysters

I recently spoke to Edwin Ng, who was one of the first growers of tiniest grown in the country. He is also a restaurant owner and, now a mini specialty grocer. This man knows likes the idea of being in the first as everything.

He now has fresh Pacific Rhapsody Oysters from the sea off Antique, grown in bamboo frames, sliced belowsize 100 p-140 p.

"They are cleaned before the shipment at drive at Fresh Field, six Market Market store. Handling and product preservation is important. That is why they are packed in 40-to boxes lined with ice."

"Once they get to us, they are still inside the store here and I know inside the chiller it's probably the desired fresh system you can find."

Why only on Fridays? Just in time for the weekend, to be enjoyed with friends and family. In the future, I plan to fly them to metro Singapore."

Every single morsel tastes and smells of the sea! There's also "great with Calabrese Sauvignon Blanc from Happy Living," says fly (Call Happy Living at 09 18-01-05 2002).

No orders, call Edwin at 0918-8705146.

Coffee Bean's gizmo

The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf phone experienced problems last week. The company would like to apologize for the inconvenience.

According to CBTL president Weldon Dee, the line has been restored since last Saturday. He that must have gotten the CBTL coffee machine and milk frother, call 4373305 or 4373737 loc. 118.

For my new cooking class schedules, call 0917-5143700, 0908-2372346, 4888496, 9260296.

E-mail the author at reggiea@inquirer.com.ph

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Japanese chef, Cantonese cuisine, Michelin star

IT'S A STRANGE combination—a Japanese chef who cooks Chinese food, particularly Cantonese. But Hiroyuki was at Hi Chun of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, giving us a first taste of his dishes.

Kenichi Tahara is chef de cuisine of Sense at the Mandarin Oriental Tokyo and he is here for only six days until June 26). Adding to the controversy about this Japanese chef cooking Chinese is that Sense has been awarded a star for three consecutive years by The Michelin Guide, which rates restaurants and recommends the dish who own or work there.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

Chef Tahara he-Invite Our Japanese cooking has its roots in Chinese. He has traveled to Hong Kong several times, studying local chefs there who have become friends. He intends to keep coming back, he said. Because Cantonese chefs constantly create new and exciting dishes. Yet he is only interested in Cantonese cuisine, which is him to be born in that big country.

But he is Japanese, and so his dinner menu showed the Japanese ingredients he uses. There were mushrooms, seaweed, Japanese soy sauce and wasabi. How he incorporated all that, including sushi (fish sauce), whether our curiosity as well were before the first dish was served.

Tahara is also known to include Thai, Malay and Singaporean ingredients in his cooking. And you can guess that the Japanese way with presentation should figure in this Cantonese fine dining.

But unlike traditional Chinese banquets, the Sense way borrows from the European way of dining, which is course by course, along certain suggestions of wines to accompany your dining.

Appetizer

A big platter of appetizer servings appeared. The slice rush of barbecued pork and braised pork were straightforward. But the seaweed-chicken (looking creepy much like the Japanese version) had sesame seeds. Asian slice of abalone seared on a bed of spinach with small mushrooms looking like fish innards... identified as Japanese somewhat mushrooms.

Two servings of vegetables gave different approaches: One was cucumber with sesame oil and squid, the other, which looked like sun pickles, had the squash turning like orange.

SCALLOPS and prawns with broccoli with yuan pepper

CHEF Kenichi Tahara of Sense, Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

What looked like an expensive source was the soup, pairing together shark's fin and abalone. It had a textured egg to the end, when asked how it's the dish's role, Tahara said yes, but think of it as like shaman inside, the Japanese steamed egg custard dish. It had another mushroom, the bigger number.

The next dish was Chinese, indeed, with tiger and prawns with broccoli. But on the other were steamed in a sauce of yuan and pepper, the buttery fragrance of the citrus were mixed with the spiciness of pepper, yet just getting off a mild bottom.

Steamed fish is always a mainstay of Chinese banquets. Served in individual plates, this was subtle. Chef Tahara sprinkled three sauces—black vinegar, soy sauce and pesto—those mixing together as well, not one flavor dominated and the overall result was much subtler than expected.

Meat dish

Yes, there was a meat dish and it had slices of tender beef seeded mushrooms in a Turtle a would say sauce, but just a touch. The taste was standard, for that decidedly Chinese touch.

Of course, in Chinese fashion, rice was at the ending, fried with specks of salmon, red rice, plenty of shredded lettuce and meat.

An ingredient in the dessert of watermelon puree was basil seeds, my first time to encounter those tiny black seeds. It didn't have that distinct basil taste. The chef said the seeds can make one really full when eaten. We suggested that for dinner, maybe it should be taken at the beginning of the meal.

The contemporary Cantonese cuisine is offered for lunch and dinner at The Hive until Sunday. On June 25, chef Tahara will be conducting a cooking class. Call 7506666.

E-mail pinoyfoodDW@yahoo.com

One more tribute to Rizal—a giant carrot-walnut cake in Luneta

By Irene C. Perez

TO CELEBRATE Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary, a towering 9.8-tall cake with fondant base was unveiled last rainy Sunday morning in Rizal Park, Manila.

The vintage theme fondant cake called "Ro Ode to a Harvest" paid tribute to the National Hero as a traveler and writer.

Local officials got a taste of the carrot-walnut creation, and people had their photos taken with the giant cake as souvenir. A thousand mini-cupcakes with the same base were given out to the crowd.

By noon, all the edible parts of the cake were gone and what remained ended up in the bin, but for the chefs of Magsaysay Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts (Mcahc) who did the cake. It was worth all the work.

The "Rizal cake" was the biggest ever done by the Mcahc team composed of pastry chefs and instructors Vil Avendaño, Mia Aquino Manuel, Jessie Guevarra, Napoleon Carbonell, Pete Inumerable Celine David.

The Department of Tourism, through Secretary Alberto Lim who is chef Manuel's cousin, approached Mcahc to do a birthday cake as a highlight of the celebration... how they were given only three weeks to come up with it, and with no budget at that.

Why did they do it?

"It was a challenge," Manuel said during an interview over dinner at Lulu Dad's Café in Manila, with chefs Avendaño and Guevara. "Wow, it was on such a short notice, then we had to look for sponsors ourselves for the ingredients, the manpower, volunteers. We are glad to have been able to pull it off after months of preparation, and we had fun while at it."

Chef Avendaño's first design was a modern geometric cake draped with the Philippine flag, with yellow ribbons that pop for the rest. They listed the ingredients according to this model, and thankfully generous sponsors pitched in. Bounce supplied 150 kilos of sugar, Sweet Craft gave walnuts and the Symphony Suite, fresh and non-canned cheese, and Anchor sent the butter.

It was all set, only for the National Historical Commission to disapprove the design.

"It was a week before the unveiling, and I thought of the design two or two days," said Avendaño. "I came up with another sketch after two hours, and we were glad it was approved... with adjustments to the measurement of ingredients."

Final design

The final design was a cake made up of stacked vintage trunks, topped with hardbound old school books, Rizal's famous novels "El Filibusterismo" and "Noli Me Tangere," tied by bookmark hat. On top was a fondant brass frame with a poster that said "Rizal @ 150 1861-2011, Rizal: Unlipi ng Bayan." On the base were stroll details, for a Fil. igrimas touch.

The cake needed 150 more kilos of sugar with the change of design, and it was delivered by Pastrico's Abigail Sio with no charge at all. They chose same, modern Intricate and even stacked seven after a long time. Fondant icing, while noticible like clay, is a difficult material to manipulate, as the group had to be very careful not to make any mistakes.

The cake was worth around P500,000.

"Team fondant"

Volunteer Mcahc students and alumni worked on "shifts" 12 hours a day and 24 hours on the day of presentations to the school. A group made the fondant, while another made breakfast and snacks for the crew.

"We had to have people down. A team of 30 was enough and manageable," said Manuel.

Then there was the problem of the weather. The cake was supposed to be displayed in the center of the park, but there was a heavy downpour that morning, so it was moved to a covered area. A team was used to transport the cake from the Mcahc campus to Luneta.

The cream theme used to assemble the cake was also sensitive, added Ivanvin. "We could only keep it until a certain time, so it couldn't be made ahead; it had to be fresh upon the presentation."

Assembly was a mad dash, with everyone moving quickly to make the cake available by 10 a.m., in time for the arrival of government officials and VIPs.

"We finished it just in time,

THE BIGGEST cake directly the Magsaysay Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts team (above) at 9.8m required 3 weeks, 35 people, 300 kilos of sugar. Their next project: a groom wedding cake.

and we are thankful for the people who have worked together with us, the sponsors, the volunteers who put time and effort in making this project," added Manuel.

It was still raining hard after the cake display was done, and the chefs had to walk, drenched, from Luneta to the Mcah office as LTS Avenue as Taft Avenue roads were closed to vehicles, and even many pedicabs were not available.

Still, they do a cake this big again?

Fresh off the heavy and rainy cleanup, smiles from the successful project, the chefs said, "It's possible."

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Holmes

Did You Know...

Manny makes the world go round

AFTER his solemn "Shmoo Min Da Manny," boxing champ-Manny Pacquiao will host a game show on GMA-7, "Manny Many Prizes." The new program, set to air next month, is reportedly going one-head-on collision with Willie Revillame's "Wil Time Bigtime" on TV-5. Kapuso-ing boss, lawyer Felipe Gozon, says, "[Pacman] is an inspiration to many Filipinos. I think the new show will be a big sale and will be able to help our countrymen."

Rayner Ian Diego Jr.

STEF Prescott

Sweet no more

Stef Prescott is ready to bare and thinks divorce should be an option, but remains conservative, anyway

By Rayner Ian Diego jr.

STEF Prescott to the latest Kapuso star to shed her sweet image via the cover of a men's mag. But she's not ready for a complete overhaul just yet.

"Deciding was hard, but in the end I really wanted to do it," she said of "going sexy" for the pictorial. "I had only two weeks to prepare," she went on a crash diet and did a lot of walking and jogging.

When the magazine came out...her American dad Paul and half-brother Todd congratulated her on Facebook. Her 14-year-old stepson Bimbo is always supportive, but is Stef ready to go bold onscreen?

"Philippine TV is still conservative so I won't be doing anything out of my comfort zone anytime soon," Stef said. "So for the movies ... I'm not going all the way."

She sees nothing wrong with bed scenes, she clarified, "for as long as I don't have to show any body part."

On her current GMA-7 series, "Captain Barbell," she confessed she's in love with co-star Dingdong Dantes. "He's a very good kisser."

SWEET SPOT

More Winehouse? They say no, no, no

LONDON—The video is painful to watch, an intimate mess-a-week for all to see. The question is what Amy Winehouse is going to do next.

The five-time Grammy Award winner, whose battles with alcohol and drug abuse have long overshadowed her music career, had a very public meltdown on stage last night in Belgrade, first stop of a European summer concert tour.

The disastrous performance shattered the goal of the troubled singer's comeback tour: renewed focus on her musical ability, not her substance abuse problems. It raised serious doubts about whether she is well enough to handle an audience.

Winehouse was jeered and booed as she stumbled around the stage, unable to remember the lyrics to her own songs. At times she could barely stand up. She was not able to carry a tune, appearing disoriented and unaware of her surroundings, in one point she dragged over a backup singer to take the mic.

The crowd at Belgrade's Kalemegdan Park was often unable to decipher even what song Winehouse was performing—a startling problem for a singer who is popular in Serbia. Many of the 20,000 fans walked out, angry that they paid steep ticket prices for such a spectacle.

Serbian media called the concert a "scandal," with the Blic daily labeling it "the worst in the history of Belgrade."

Instead of continuing to booze-bail up Monday and fallout on Wednesday for long-scheduled concerts, Winehouse canceled those moments and returned to her London home. She is now holding talks expected to lead to further cancellations of her 12-date European tour.

The Belgrade meltdown raised questions about Winehouse's future viability as a live act. AP

AMY Winehouse is booed in Serbia

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The nerve-wracking audition: 'Don't call us, we'll call you'

IF YOU'VE seen my audition for "Miss Saigon," it looks like one enjoyable ride, complete with greeting autographs from the creators of the show. A quick run of "Sun and Moon," plus a snippet of "Bituin ka My Mutal," and then poof!—off I went to London.

But anyone who has ever been through it knows that auditions do not ever go this way.

Truth is, auditions can vary, and as an actor, I never know what the casting director, producer or director of a certain project is looking for. Do they want someone my age? Younger? Older? Sexier? Do they want me to be a powerful belter? Do they want me to be a supporting, adding wolf?

Even after "Miss Saigon" I've had to audition and sit in a room along with other women... hoping for a chance at a part, whether it's for TV or film. It's always nerve-wracking, as one's room to face the panel comes.

First time

My first audition came at age 6, for Repertory Philippines' production of "The King and I," and it was for that scene of a director, Zenaida Amador. It worked for me that I had absolutely no idea who she was, so I feared not. But her temper sent the decibel level of her angry voice...

I stood up on stage at the Insular Life Auditorium in Makati, sang a rehearsed version of "Do Re Mi" from "Sound of Music," and received my gift some such (Amador asked for a pencil; I didn't know any). I got in, based perhaps on a little chutzpah, and solved roles.

The next big audition was for "Annie." I had a major allergy attack that day which made my eyelids look horrid, but I got up on stage anyway and sang "Tomorrow." Once I got home, I raced up the stairs and cleaned to no one in particular that I got the part.

Fast forward to "Miss Saigon." Again I was clueless about who the creators and producer of this new show were (Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, and Cameron Mackintosh, respectively).

However, I was thankful to be in the company of dedicated people, for without Junior del Mundo clearing me to Equity's audition "On My Own" and lending me a cassette tape of "Les Miserables," I don't think I would've been prepared enough for the experience.

It was indeed an experience. The audition's first day in Manila at the final day in London spanned over a month, with three sessions at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, three sessions in the Theater Royal Drury Lane, and an hour or so of coaching with Martin Koch, musical director, at the CCP, allfirst.

I got to learn four songs in Manila, and two more in London. I even got to witness Keith Hunter bearing that he had gotten cast as "Boy" after he and I sang together on stage, it was very exciting! Right there, I remembered just how far my life's journey would take me, and how it would end. Still, we all know how everything came out (yay!).

Voice-overs

Auditioning for a voice-over part is a little different, as one cannot depend on one's looks at all. It's trying out for "Intuition" (and "Madam" knew one), the creators of the film needed to hear only my voice, completely disregarding my looks or my sense of style (which happened as always itself from one day to the next).

Alan Menken and Tim Rice (composer and lyricist) and David Friedman (musical supervisor) all hosted their boards while I sang "Part of Your World" from "The Little Mermaid." It was liberating, to be honest. I could put usually focus on my singing and not worry if my lipstick was hanging out or if my makeup was just right.

For "Madam," I went in a tape of my voice sang to a track made by Ryan Cayabyab.

I've been fortunate, but I've also had many days of rejection ("Don't call us, we'll call you"). I've met always gotten the parts I tried out for, for whatever reason ("Into the night type," "too the right voice," "looks too young," "looks too old," "just not what we're looking for").

And last week I auditioned for a part on a TV show [before anyone gets excited, no, not for "Glee," but for another show I'm equally obsessed about], My agent then told me that my production is going to another direction for that role. Bummed.

Chances are that, for as long as I'm in this business, I'll still be required to put myself out there, preparing my script pages, running stuff to my head, and hoping for the best.

Thank you...

To Bryan Andoy and his kindergarten class at PS 203 for a wonderful afternoon!

Pablo Jellicoe 212, in the heart of midtown Manhattan, has something unique and special happening as part of their social studies curriculum: the idea. Many professionals who work or have worked in the theater pay a visit into the students. The kids here and questions, act out a scene from a show that a resource person has done, and sing a song directly related to the visitor. On my visit, the kids performed a scene from "Aladdin," and we all sang "A Whole New World" as part of studies on the composer Alan Menken.

Previous visitors have been actors Hugh Jackman, Bernie Kopell, Sarah Stiles, Jonathan Freeman, composers Stephen Schwartz and Alan Menken and director Harold Prince. It's a great way to get kids interested in and connected to the arts.

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2048

Search for 'lost' Filipino films intensifies

SOFIA, the Filipino film archivists' group, should be congratulated for successfully making that search for "lost" movies current by events and important. Its monthly screenings of old Filipino films retrieved from the dustbins of bygonedness, sparsity and neglect have rebirthed film buffs' zest for other "rescue" efforts to preserve our tragedy dwindling film patrimony.

Most recently, Iella got veteran producer Mother Lily Monteverde belatedly interested in preserving her own studio's huge output for (between years and decades). If other producers are similarly reminded and motivated, succeeding generations of Filipino viewers will no longer be robbed of their cinematic past and future.

Before Sofia, pioneers in local film preservation and archiving included the Iskopan Pictures studio, which has managed to preserve copies (in various film and/or video formats) of around one-fourth of its vast filmography—a huge and visionary achievement, despite the fumigation archives' limited resources.

Also a pioneer was the late Fernando Poe Jr., who devoted his own resources (even his preserving the negatives of his studio's actioners and dramas. Bunoy reaped the financial rewards of his foresight, because it enabled him to show his old films on TV every five years or so.

My research for other producers will hunt from his experience to relate their own old movies as the "dwindling capital" they in fact really are, and that the financial rewards will help motivate them to value and preserve their own productions.

In truth, while classics and other quality movies should have first crack at revenue, rehabilitation and preservation, all movies should be treated and archived.

Films aren't just examples of cinematic art, they document the period in which they were made, so they summon us to a visual history of their times, telling not just fictive tales about how society characters loved, but also how we really actually lived.

Immersively enough, our own insights into the importance of film preservation were honed not locally where apathy and neglect have been the operative attitudes for many decades, but in other countries, where archiving is regarded and practiced with a keener sense of its importance.

In London, for instance, our vaulted tapered many hours in the "basement," learning a lot about the cinema's possibilities by watching really old and restored productions.

At Tilburg school in the Hague, our film history courses similarly amazed us with the very best the film world has to offer, from its earliest year on, word.

And, in the Fukuoka Film Archives in Japan, we immersed ourselves in the mini-galaxy of the extensive facility's operations, and were amazed to find that scores of Filipino masterworks had been kept in pristine condition in its cool, state-of-the-art vaults.

The thought struck us: If the experts rate Iella and hence our films so much, why not us?

'Itim Asu' screening, photo exhibit at UP Film Center

IN CELEBRATION of Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary, there will be a screening of "Itim Asu"—Alice Reyes' Nullo piece inspired by Virgo Monteiro's play "Onyx Wolf" and captured on film by Remy Yong—today 6 p.m. in the original UP Film Center site, Diliman. Admission: UP Diliman.

There will also be a gallery exhibit of Monteiro's manuscript of "Onyx Wolf," Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's painting, "The Assassination of Governor-General Bustamante," Bustamante" (whose story inspired "Onyx Wolf"), as well as manuscripts of Rizal's novels "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" on 9:30 p.m. at the same venue.

Sweet no more

Viewpage B1

"I spoil Tall Image Imie and wear a tee out that shows a little shortage. Even my friends did not recognize me," Imie said. "I play a bad girl, Eve, rubbish of Christopher de Leon's character."

That's the scenario of Richard Gutierrez's capsule football, but she thinks the scene is a dream. Isn't. "It's a pleasure working with him," she said. "He's a big star, he's very down-to-earth. He laugh a lot on the set."

Of material

Chael is on top of her short list of guys who are "boyfriend material," but does she think for mom, Annabelle Rama, is good for a mother in law? "I admire Tita Annabelle," Mel said, a little off the mark. "She's an amazing mom and manager."

Among local stars, she picks Judene Bernardo and Aljur Mercado as the sexiest. Mel explained: "Judene's eyes are sultry and she's got those curves. Aljur was my hands down to "master of the" I saw his dead, opposite from a noisy [kid] to a man. He's hot!"

Clearly Mel, who straddles American and Filipino cultures, isn't shy about expressing her views. She shared her opinions on the secrets to paint a divorce law in the Philippines.

"I think divorce should be an option," she said. "But Filipinos are very pious and regard marriage as a sacrament. I myself value the sanctity of marriage, but people make mistakes and should be allowed to pursue their happiness."

E-mail: [illegible]

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LUPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BAABOY — BY FIL LUZADA

DICK TRACY

LOVEHEADS — BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRI SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ABRERA

SEIH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CORNET

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Today, someone is counting on you to work with authority figures (bosses, teachers and parents), politicians and stock brokers. Avoid power struggles and taking credit at others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's easy to feel disappointed with someone today. Another one bites the dust. Don't let your guard down and remember that romantic prospects are not necessarily the best long-term investors. Get in touch.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Great struggles with friends, associates, family members and neighbors abound; sensitive yet tough-as-nails talk is called for. Assertiveness triumphs, and even wins a few new admirers.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is an extremely poor day for important discussions with authority figures or parents, as well as partners and close friends. Family members are quick to anger. (Especially those who live in North Canada.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Avoid arguments about religion and most issues today. Similarly, be patient with others or they will be with you. If you have ideas about improving things, (Just ask.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Unusual discussions with others, especially about shared property, are likely. Lucid discussion about monetary matters, debt and taxes might help. Are you sure? (Use a second opinion.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a very good day for important discussions between partners and close friends. People feel competitive and are extremely aware because Mercury is in opposition to Mars. Be careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your buttons will be pushed, and sometimes, tough words may follow. Don't be hard to take. Put a smile on it! (You could find like a rich cousin, a new job.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Friends and companions could be stubborn when dealing with children today. They might be reluctant to hear new developments. Children are having stubborness and obstinate days and nights!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Avoid heated arguments with relatives, especially before noon. Serious family arguments will not easily. There is no need to be right or to convince others to agree with you — just relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is an excellent day for you, your sign, or no one. Think before you speak or do anything. Don't assume others to agree with you especially when talking to certain relatives.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Financial matters or disagreements with telecommunications might take downtrodden. Be reminded. Then, you'll have disagreements with friends. Now?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Ellott

		9	4		5	8		
	4						9	
		8				6		
4			6		1			5
1			5		3			2
		2				5		
	8						2	
		3	7		4	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

8	5	3	2	7	4	6	9	1
6	1	9	8	3	5	4	7	2
4	7	2	6	9	1	5	3	8
7	2	1	9	6	3	8	4	5
9	6	8	4	5	2	7	1	3
3	4	5	1	8	7	2	6	9
2	9	6	3	4	8	1	5	7
5	3	7	7	1	9	3	8	6
1	8	4	5	2	6	9	2	4

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Dinosaur
5. Jump
9. Hidden weapon
10. Misery
14. Egg beverage
15. Ice time
16. Stadium
17. Venue venture
18. Mayor quantities
19. Type of
20. Lemon leaves
22. Tiny little fishy thing
23. Dog name
24. Lamb's mother
25. I want to vote
26. Bird-like mammal
27. Come
28. Listen to
29. "Who's to blame..."
30. Tuesday
31. Sometimes hours
33. Western continent
34. Modern conveniences
36. Mother, poetic
40. Ice cream
41. Ran
42. Off ice
43. Method of question
45. Fish
47. Chickens
48. Cat's plaything
51. Chief's wife's
52. Scientific
53. Lucky 7 drink
54. Lacrosse team
55. Wash, in laundry
56. Hallway in
57. Baby's cradle?
58. Fruit-filled pastries
59. Hero
60. Running season

DOWN

1. Vehicle park
2. Fabled ice resorts
3. Winter toy
4. Chief baker's area

5. Blood component
6. Ice cream
7. Ice crossing
8. Chemist
9. Heading
10. Ice cream
11. Whole (to)
12. Winter
13. Ice cream
21. Ice cream
22. Ice cream
23. Hurt (to)
24. Ice cream
25. Ice cream
26. Ice cream
27. Ice cream
28. Ice cream
29. Ice cream
30. Ice cream
31. Ice cream
32. Ice cream
33. Ice cream
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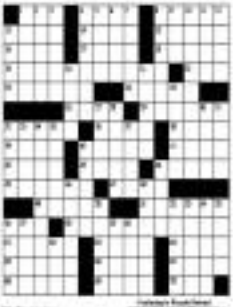
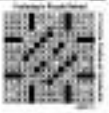
58. Ice cream
59. Ice cream
60. Ice cream



Solution to yesterday's puzzle



Sold for $5.52M

LOS ANGELES—An auction of actress Debbie Reynolds' Hollywood memorabilia raised $22.8 million over the weekend and included the record-breaking sale of Marilyn Monroe's iconic "subway dress" from 1955 movie "The Seven Year Itch." Organizers said on Monday the $5.6 million winning bid for Monroe's dress rose to $5.52 million after taxes and fees were included, and the item far surpassed presale estimates of $1 million to $2 million.

Auctioneer Profiles in History said the previous record-setter was the little black dress from the 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's," which sold for $923,187.

Reynolds' auction totaled in several major sales that surpassed that figure. Reynolds' most dress from "My Fair Lady" fetched $4.4 million, and Judy Garland's blue cotton dress from "Wizard of Oz" drew $1.49 million.

Reuters

US TV Critics hail 'Mad Men,' 'Modern Family'

"MAD Men," best drama

BEVERLY HILLS—In what amounts to a celebration of last year's honors and a bold prediction of this year's ceremony, "Mad Men" and "Modern Family" won top prizes at a new event organized by TV critics.

The two show, both critical darlings, took best drama and comedy prizes, respectively, at the Critics' Choice Television Awards during a luncheon here on Monday.

The event is organized by the Broadcast Television Journalists' Association, a spin-off of the Broadcast Film Critics Association, a group with an impressive Oscar-hovering pedigree.

Their ceremony took place four days before the Emmy awards, for which the year's nominees will be announced July 14, the winners on Sept. 18.

"Mad Men," a lush-eyed Madison Avenue drama set in the 1960s, ended up with three awards in all. Jones star Jon Hamm won for best actor in a drama. Christina Hendricks was named best supporting drama actress in a role with Margo Martindale of "Justified."

"Mad Men" has won the top drama Emmy for the past three years, but its actors have never been honored.

"Modern Family," which led the field with six nominations, ended up with just the top comedy award. Ferrar Eric Stonestreet also won an Emmy last year for his supporting role, was rewarded amid the time by Neil Patrick Harris of "How I Met Your Mother."

The comedy winners were rounded out by reigning Emmys champion Jim Parsons for his lead role in "The Big Bang Theory," "30 Rock" star Tina Fey and Steve Phillippi for her supporting role in "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Other drama winners included "The Good Wife" star Julianna Margulies as best actress and John Noble for his supporting role in "Fringe."

The ceremony, which eschewed the Emmys' extensive nominations categories, was without host.

Reuters

"MODERN Family," best comedy

Have a Food Tour of the Best Restaurants in Fort Bonifacio for P550.

Venice Piazza serves you three generous helpings at the Food Adventure. Taste the Food Adventure Tour, the Food Adventure Extreme, and the Food Adventure Chef Cookout every Saturday night and experience the world with every bite.

Get your first helping with the **Food Adventure Tour** in here, we're inside Saturday dinner reservations for you at 12 restaurants between 6pm and 10pm. All you have to do is place a name under those reservations by purchasing a passport at the Eastwood Mall Concierge in Eastwood City, Quezon City, the Venice Piazza booth in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, or at participating restaurants inside Venice Piazza for P550. With this passport, you can have a taste of the bestselling selections from Blackwood Bistro, Empire Deli & Restaurant, Kuse, Little Asia, Old Vine Grille, Pho Hoa, Rinchos Restaurant & Bar, Ramen Bar, Red Crab Aimanga House, Sol Gelato, Sweet Pea, and Ys Sushi. A variety of food from these restaurants is sure to give your tummy delight!

Next helping is with the **Food Adventure Extreme** between 5pm and 11pm, on Saturdays and Sundays. Fill your plate with exotic dishes, such as deep fried frogs, snails in coconut sauce, and more. The best part here is that there's no need to worry about sanitary issues, because these dishes have been prepared with the cleanest practices.

This helping doesn't need a passport because you have the freedom to choose which dishes you can try.

Final helping is with the **Food Adventure Chef Cookout** between 6pm and 11pm, on Saturdays and Sundays. No passport required for this unique foodie treat. This time you get to have a say in what you'll eat and how you'd like us to put it on your plate. Here you can shop at the upmarket 'dampa' for raw meat and fresh vegetables then have the chefs at Red Crab cook the meal for you. What's better than having your food cooked the way you like it?

Grab your servings of the Food Adventure every weekend, and enjoy old school music at Venice Piazza in the Weekend Rewind at 8:30pm.

Adding more excitement is the Tour Passport **freebies and discounts**, which you can claim any day of the week between June and July.

Your three helpings of the Food Adventure are sure to be the most fulfilling dinner you'll ever have. Explore the Tour, go to the Extreme, and experience the Chef Cookout only at Venice Piazza in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

For more information, call the Megaworld Lifestyle Malls Concierge at 709-0888 or 0917-8388111. You can also join the online community at facebook.com/VenicePiazza or get quick updates by following twitter.com/VenicePiazza.

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children's hour

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE ONE HOUR AT A TIME

Supplement Head Joseph Arcano

APIR! Years of Children's Hour

Ten years of making the world a better place one hour at a time

HOW MUCH does Children's Hour love little? Let us count the number of fingers they have on both hands: 10! One finger for each year of operations!

Children's Hour and its donors, sponsors and friends have been generously sharing their time and what it's worth for the past ten years and will continue to do so in the years to come.

The first hour

Children's Hour began in the United Kingdom as "Children's Promise," a fundraising campaign led by Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sir Richard Greenbury of Marks & Spencer, and the Sea-Millennium Experience Company. The idea grew and went global, with the US-based International Youth Foundation becoming the lead. Top businessmen and PDP member Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, brought the campaign here. And thus, Children's Hour Philippines was born as a four-month end-of-the-millennium campaign. On our initial campaign, Children's Hour managed to raise over P38 million that benefited 23 different organizations.

Ten years later

The overwhelmingly generous response, and the continued clamor for children's aid, inspired the return of Children's Hour in 2002. From 1999, to the relaunch in 2002, and as of December 2010, CHPI has raised P302 million from over 1,400 cooperating companies. This allowed us to fund 240 projects that has transformed the lives of 870,125 marginalized Filipino children nationwide.

APIR! Celebrating ten years of service

"Apir" – the local term for high five, the jolly gesture of raising one's hand and slapping the open hand of another as a sign of greeting, celebrates us all. Ourselves is the theme for Children's Hour's 10th Campaign Year. This is a tribute to all our partners, donors and friends for helping us make the world a better place, through the POWER OF ONE HOUR.

Our Annual Benefit Lunch held last December 2010 reinforced our ongoing and reinvigorating partnership with our partners, donors and friends. It was attended by His Excellency

APIR 10

Robinsons children's hour

Making the World a Happier Place

CHILD-REARING AND CARE

FOSTERING COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING

NATURE

Stepping Stone Learning Resource and Therapy Center

Shepherd of the Hills Foundation

Robinsons Appliances

Lingap Pangkalusugan

Toys "R" Us

160 YEARS AND COUNTING

BPI

Let's make it easy.

I dedicate my BPinoy Award to my Mom, who sacrifices for my future.

join us as we mark another milestone as we take banking beyond the ordinary

children's hour
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE ONE HOUR AT A TIME

APIR . . .

Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III, together with 900+ of our top donors.

APRUB! Continuing the hours

Today, Children's Hour reasons its culminating activity to celebrate its 13th Campaign Year, the APRUB Summit or A Partnership in Resource Utilization for the Betterment of Children Summit at the Ortigas Rajanthan Center. This will be the first Children's Hour summit for organizations working in children's development.

The "APRUB" Summit will be a showcase of Children's Hour's accomplishments and milestones in grassroots giving during the past 13 Campaign Years and will serve as a venue for development organizations to learn lessons from the various projects funded by Children's Hour and engage them to identifying issues and ways to develop new, as well as improve existing, project designs and strategies.

PNOY with Children's Hour beneficiaries during the Arroz Dezelo Loan.

CHILDREN'S Hour Founding Chair, prima dogarao Dulce de Ayala.

I am very happy to be part of Children's Hour's first decade of successful operations and to continue my Mom's legacy as Children's Hour's Honorary Chair. I believe that the collective contribution of one hour's worth of annual earnings is a real, definite step towards making dreams possible and changing thousands of children's lives.

Our gifts of time have grown into gifts of lifetime.

Let us continue this advocacy with child-like enthusiasm.

Bailey Aquino-Cruz
Honorary Chair

Children's Hour's first ten campaigns can be best described as a decade of joyful giving. The tremendous support of our donors, partners and friends have allowed us to transform the lives of more than 400,000 children - our host considering this was done through the power of ONE HOUR.

We are grateful for your kind hearts and generous spirits that have helped us close one decade, and your continuing support helps us propel Children's Hour to our next.

Emily A. Abrera
Children's Hour Chairperson

The past ten campaigns have been buoyed by the Filipino's courageous and resilient spirit inspired by the hope in the eyes of the children we serve, we have developed creative, engaging ways to involve Children's Hour benefactors in meaningful work to bring us closer to our goal of happier, safer, more educated Filipino children.

Our team spirit allows us to be all winners. But the biggest winners will always be the children.

children's hour
and
GOLDEN ABC
Partners in molding today's youth to create brighter tomorrows. Since 2004.

ENSOGO SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HOUR
3%
of all purchases made on Ensogo is automatically donated to Children's Hour.
Ensogo and Children's Hour
SAVING TOGETHER
ensogo
Let's save together

What is Children's Hour?

children's hour
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE ONE HOUR AT A TIME

CHILDREN'S HOUR is a simple but effective way to help others. As a non-profit organization, we raise funds mainly by asking individuals and companies to donate a minimum one hour equivalent of their earnings to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children at least once a year.

CHILDREN'S HOUR Reading Program

What are its objectives?

To help disadvantaged Filipino children by funding projects that improve their well-being, particularly in the areas of education.

To develop philanthropic and social responsibility among organizations, companies and individuals by providing CHH as an avenue and resource for their CSR.

Starting in July 2008, CHH also aims to help create an environmentally better future for children by promoting environmental consciousness, incorporating it in our projects, and partnering with organizations that advance the cause.

Why does the scheme work?

The idea behind Children's Hour is both simple and reputable, providing individuals of all ages, backgrounds and professions the opportunity to take part in making a positive contribution to the lives of our children. Whether you earn P8,000 an hour or the equivalent of one hour in minimum wage, it makes no difference. The campaign hopes to nurture greater social commitment among all members of society.

Where does the money go?

We aim to make the most out of the donations entrusted to us. All fund programs in the areas of education, health and nutrition, shelter and foster care and psychosocial rehabilitation. Of these many areas for intervention, we have placed primary focus on education. We believe it's the key out of poverty, and the best way to empower less-advantaged children to grow into productive and responsible citizens.

Therefore, backed up by the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education, and continued with launch readers in our ground, we have made education the major component of most of our projects.

MINDSCAPE donates to Children's Hour

POLO Philanthropies to Children's Hour

PARTNERSHIP Accenture of the Philippines partners with Children's Hour

CHILDREN'S Hour supports Foundation for the Advancement of Surgical Education Inc.

Ayala Museum
Makati Avenue corner De la Rosa Street
Greenbelt Park, 1224 Makati City, Philippines
Phone: (632) 757 7117 to 21
Fax: (632) 757 2787
Email: inquiries@ayalamuseum.org www.ayalamuseum.org

Join Alaska in championing our children's welfare.

Alaska supports
children's hour

Wala pa ring tatalo Sa
ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

children's hour

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, ONE HOUR AT A TIME

CHILDREN'S Hour's Board of Trustees together with PMay and Tess Sobrevas

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ROBINSON'S Sauve donates to Children's Hour

CHILDREN'S Hour Day Care Center Groundbreaking

CHILDREN'S Hour Christmas gift-giving activity

How can you help?

WE ALL want to make a contribution that leaves the world a little bit better than the way we found it. It does not take much to make a difference and make the world a better place. All it takes is ONE HOUR! Your ONE HOUR salary equivalent can do the following:

P999 can send one child to an educational field trip.

P500 can provide flu medicines for children in rural areas.

P1,000 can fund the monthly school cost of six orphans.

P1,400 can support the medical needs of an indigenous child for one year.

How to send your packages

For cash donations, you can directly deposit cash donations to our BPI Account:

ACCOUNT NAME: CHILDREN'S HOUR PHILIPPINES, INC.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 3591-0024-84

We request that you fax the deposit slip to our accountant at (632) 893-2256 for OR purposes.

For Checks:

Please make checks payable to CHILDREN'S HOUR PHILIPPINES, INC. You may send it to Children's Hour office at Unit 905 Library Building, 895 A.S. Amorsolo Avenue Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, Philippines

Check may be picked up depending on the size.

All donations are 100% tax deductible. Certificates of Donation may be issued upon request.

For more information on Children's Hour and the work that we do, please call (632) 893-2256 or email ask@childrenshour.org.ph or visit www.childrenshour.org.ph